SATURDAY SPECIAL/ F1

Cate Blanchett's
award-winning role
as man turns off hubby

BUSINESS / B1

RP firms invested $1.8B
abroad but it's not
capital flight, says BSP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
NCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, September 22, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 286 P18

SLEEPING CHILD: 3-year-old Ayrin Ocampo slips into dreamland while waiting with her schoolmates for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo. She's one of the preschoolers from a Project 6 daycare center selected for the free feeding program for schoolchildren. LYN RILLON

BALANCING ACT: President Arroyo appears to have lost a leg as she steps downstairs at the Palace to preside over the 13th Crime Prevention Week rites.
LYN RILLON

JDV: If there's oust threat, will crush it

'I am torn between my love for my son and GMA'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

HIS POST MAY BE AT risk because of his son's testimony at the Senate implicating President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, but Speaker Jose de Venecia is confident of weathering the political storm.

In fact, the man said, he did not need Malacañang's guarantee to complete his unprecedented fifth term until 2010. "I feel strong in my own right," he told the INQUIRER in an interview at his Makati residence yesterday.

Asked in a separate interview to assess his hold on the House leadership, De Venecia declared: "There is no threat. And if there is a threat, we'll crush it."

The Speaker said he was "bewitched and bewildered" in the wake of his son Jose "Joey" de

JDV: IF THERE'S/ A6

LIKE OLD TIMES, circa 1972: Thousands of militants hold a rally near the Palace in observance of the 35th anniversary of the declaration of martial rule. They denounce the corruption, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. Little has changed, they say, since the big bad days of the dictator Marcos. As usual, the cops are there to stop the protesters from getting any closer to the seat of power. REM ZAMORA

AFP sacks 6 junior officers tied to new plot

By Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac

THE MILITARY HAS RELIEVED OR REASSIGNED six junior officers for allegedly recruiting men in a fresh destabilization attempt, and moved in three army battalions to Metro Manila to protect the seat of government.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday the alleged destabilizers could be capitalizing on the controversy provoked by allegations of massive payoffs in the government's National Broadband Network deal with China.

Esperon said troops of the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) had begun conducting an "operational readiness exercise" in Metro Manila.

"As we have said, there are attempts. We want to be on the safe side. We want to have the forces available here with us, just in case," Esperon told reporters.

The troops moved into the capital reportedly numbered about 1,000.

Esperon did not identify the six. In the

AFP SACKS 6/ A8

'Joey more credible; Mendoza did not answer questions'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

SEVERAL SENATORS YESTERDAY said they found Jose "Joey" de Venecia III more credible than Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza. But to Sen. Joker Arroyo, it was all "a quarrel among fixers."

These were the reactions of senators to the testimonies of the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia and of Mendoza in two days of hearings at the Senate inquiry into the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's telecommunications giant ZTE Corp.

De Venecia is a major stockholder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc (AHI), a losing proponent in the NBN project. He has denounced alleged irregularities in the award of the deal to ZTE but Mendoza defended it as good for the country.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Joey de Venecia appeared more credible than Mendoza.

"[Joey de Venecia] has many things to lose, including his father's perceived closeness to the

JOEY MORE/ A6

Erap may be home for Christmas

By Christine O. Avendaño, Christian V. Esguerra and Jocelyn R. Uy

PLUNDER CONVICT, OUSTED President Joseph Estrada, could be a free man by Christmas.

Discussions on the grant of either a pardon or amnesty to the deposed President are apparently in an "advanced stage" less than two weeks after the Sandi-

ERAP/ A11

TRIVIA

Remember September '72

TOP TV SHOWS: SUPERSTAR (starring Nora Aunor), Balintataw and Evening with Pilita

- **Movie Actors and Actresses:** Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Hilda Koronel, Eddie Gutierrez, Maritess Revilla, Susan Roces, Dante Rivero, Rosemarie Gil, Jay Ilagan, Noel Trinidad, Cocoy Laurel and Desiree Destreza
- **Movies:** Bilangguang Puso by Rosas Productions (Starring: Susan Roces and Dante Rivero) and "bomba" films
- **Top Fashion designers:** Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno and Christian Espiritu
- **Pop music:** America, Led Zeppelin, Doobie Brothers, Roberta Flack, James Taylor and Eric Clapton
- **Popular books:** Mao Tse Tung's Red Book; Satanas sa Lupa by Celso Al Carunungan (a parody of the Marcos regime)
- **Basic jeepney fare:** 30 centavos
- **Other Philippine news:** The arrival of MV Anting, the first ship from the People's Republic

REMEMBER/ A6

Abalos: It was Joey who pursued me

By Beverly T. Natividad

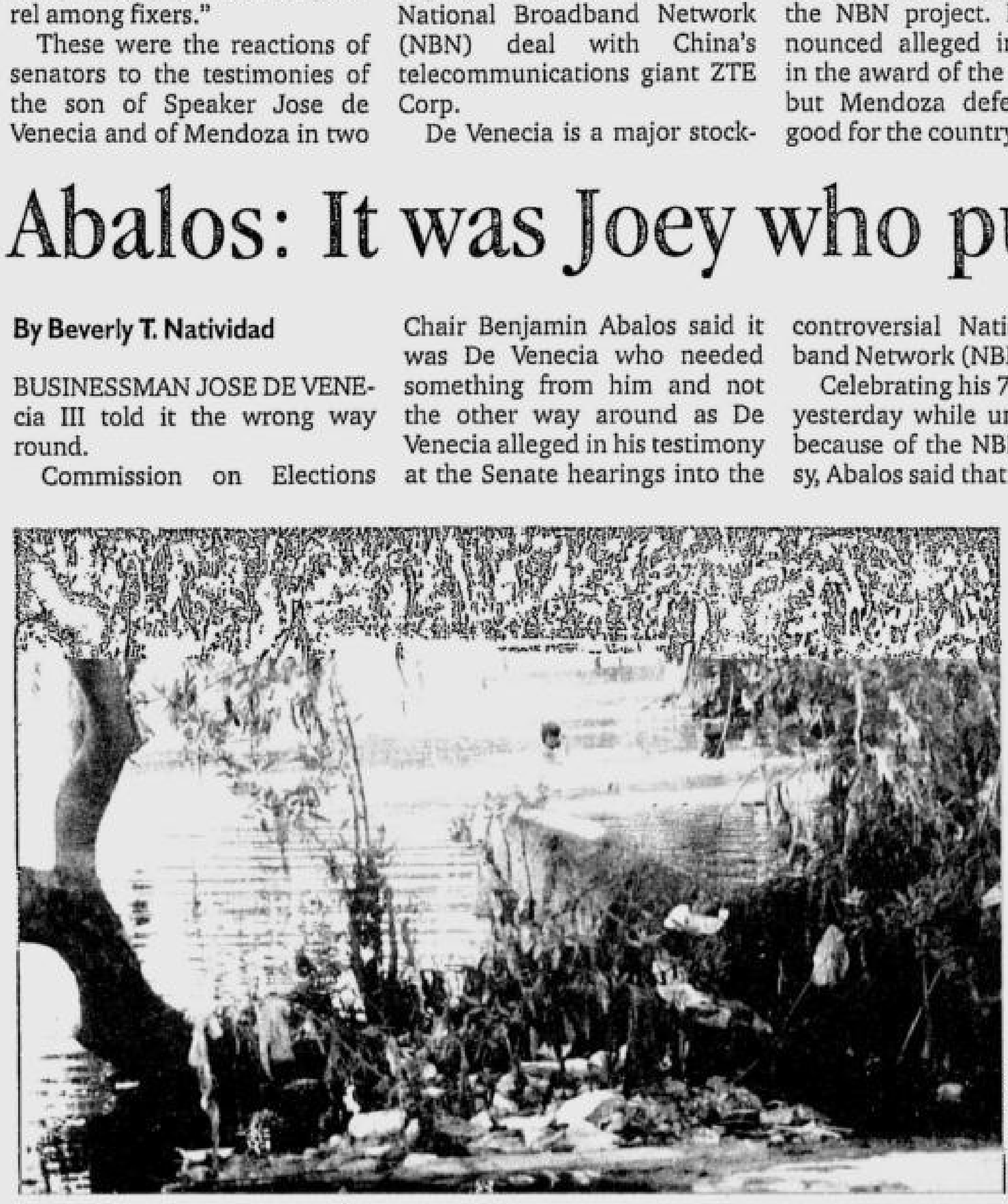
BUSINESSMAN JOSE DE VENECIA III told it the wrong way round.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos said it was De Venecia who needed something from him and not the other way around as De Venecia alleged in his testimony at the Senate hearings into the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Celebrating his 73rd birthday yesterday while under a cloud because of the NBN controversy, Abalos said that for his birthday wish, he hoped that "people reserve their judgment until all this is over."

"Don't you find it strange that it was he [De Venecia] who kept

ABALOS/ A8



EDWIN BACASMAS

DESPITE THE STENCH, kids swim in this river in Marilao, Bulacan, named by a US-based environment group one of the 30 dirtiest rivers, in search of scrap, and they find heaps of it plus a lot more thrown through the years with abandon from households and factories in the area.

RP's new potato varieties good for French fries

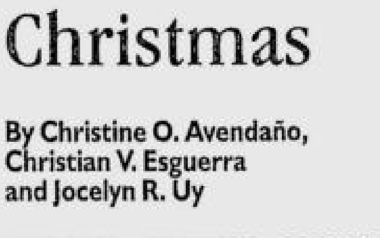
By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THANKS TO EXPERTS here, the Pinoy potato can produce good French fries.

After five years of field trials, root crop experts at Benguet State University (BSU) said Benguet farmers could now plant four new potato varieties which possess the desired dry matter content required by fast-food chains to make good French fries.

The varieties—Igorota, Solibao, Ganza and a fourth one which has yet to be given an official tag—are the fruits of intensive research using various clones or potato types.

RP'S NEW/ A10



MASKI SIRA ULO KINAKAUSAP NG DIYOS

God's defense in lawsuit falls from on high

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA—GOD has apparently responded to a lawsuit filed by a Nebraska lawmaker, and one of the filings seems to have dropped in from the heavens.

"This one miraculously appeared on the counter. It just

GOD'S DEFENSE/ A8

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Second FrontPage

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ANG GULO GULO KASI!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
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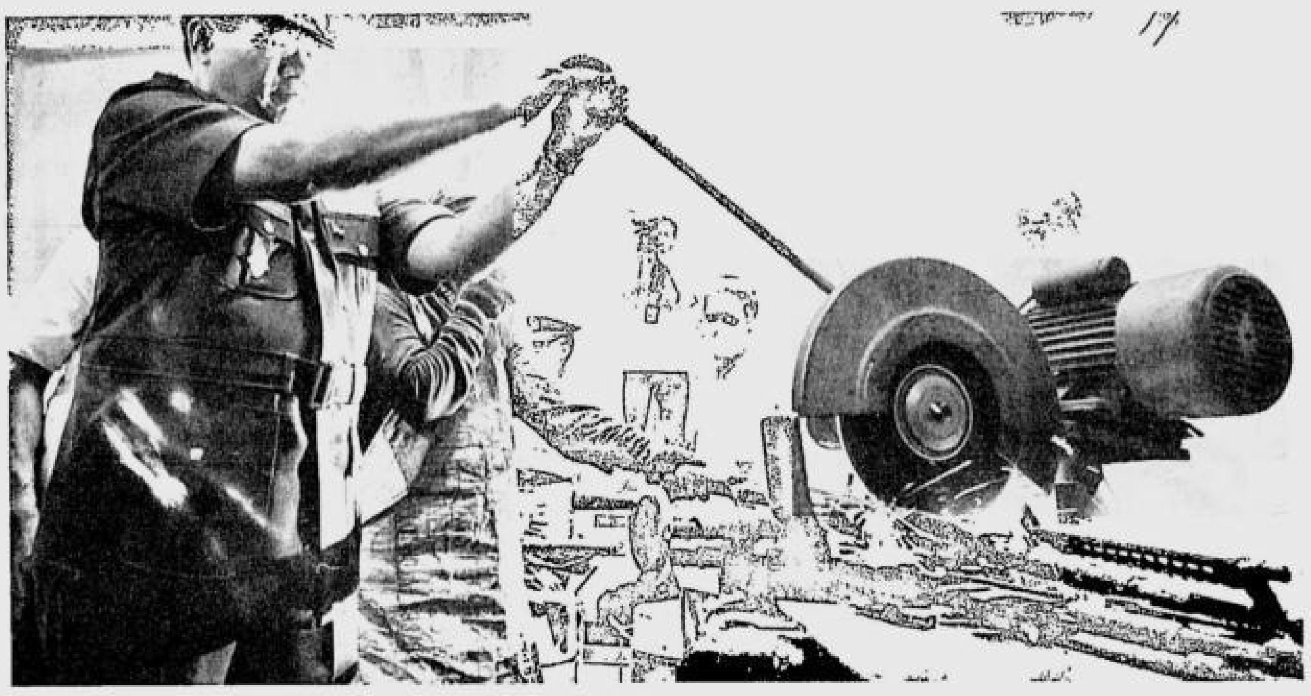
Scrap NBN deal, senators urge

Lawmakers cross party lines, say broadband network useless, unnecessary



SILENT GUNS. Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon tries his hand at destroying some of the thousands of guns decommissioned by the military yesterday.

JOAN BONDOC

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CROSSING PARTY LINES, ADministration and opposition senators yesterday called on Malacañang to junk the $329 million national broadband network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp, saying the country does not need the project.

Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. said the NBN project was useless for the country.

"*Kung ako ang Pangulo ay kakanselahin ko na ang* deal *na ito para hindi na tayo nalalagay sa gulo, hindi na nagkakaroon ng gulo dito sa ating bayan*" (If I were the President, I will already cancel this deal so we will no longer be in trouble. There has been no trouble in this country), Villar said.

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon said the government did not need to take out a loan to finance an NBN project that the country does not need.

"It should be scrapped. *Palpak talaga* (It's really bungled). It is not need-driven but supply-driven. We do not need that project. What we need is to spend on education, health," Gordon said, adding: "We should ask China to help us where we need it."

Power-wielders

Sen. Manuel Roxas II yesterday also called on the government to scrap the broadband deal which he called "an apparent attempt by unscrupulous power-wielders ... to earn millions in commissions."

"This is a project in search of rationalization. *Hindi nagsimula ang proyektong ito base sa tunay na pangangailangan ng bansa* (This project did not start based on the real needs of the country)," he said, adding the Philippines can still back out of the deal.

He likened the broadband deal to the government buying personal digital assistants when school children do not even have pencils to write with.

During Thursday's joint Senate hearing, none of the senators expressed support for the project.

The senators were apparently dismayed at the project despite listening to the justification made by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and a host of other officials on the merits of the project during the six-hour hearing.

"*Maliwanag naman kasi sa away sa transaksyon na ito na wala naman mapapala ang ating bayan*, (It's clear from the quarrel in this transaction that it will not benefit the country)," Villar added.

No straight answers

Villar noted that executive officials were not able to give straight answers to questions on how a supply contract with ZTE was signed when there was no executive agreement yet, and how the country could benefit from a foreign-funded project that the public has to pay for in the next 20 years.

"*Medyo nagkakabuhol-buhol ang mga sagot nila bagamat napakarami nila* (Their answers were incoherent although there were many of them)," said Villar.

Full force

At least 15 Cabinet officials showed up at the Senate hearing although only three of them were summoned by the Senate to shed light on the broadband deal.

Mendoza had warned of "repercussions" in the country's relations with China if the deal would not push through.

But Gordon dismissed Mendoza's argument.

"China will understand that. China has other deals with us. Now if we ban their products, *sampal sa kanila iyon* (It's a slap on them)," he said.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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WET WEATHER looms as La Niña develops /A5

MARTIAL LAW haunts anti-Marcos firebrand /A4

MARATHON hearings for Imelda /A6

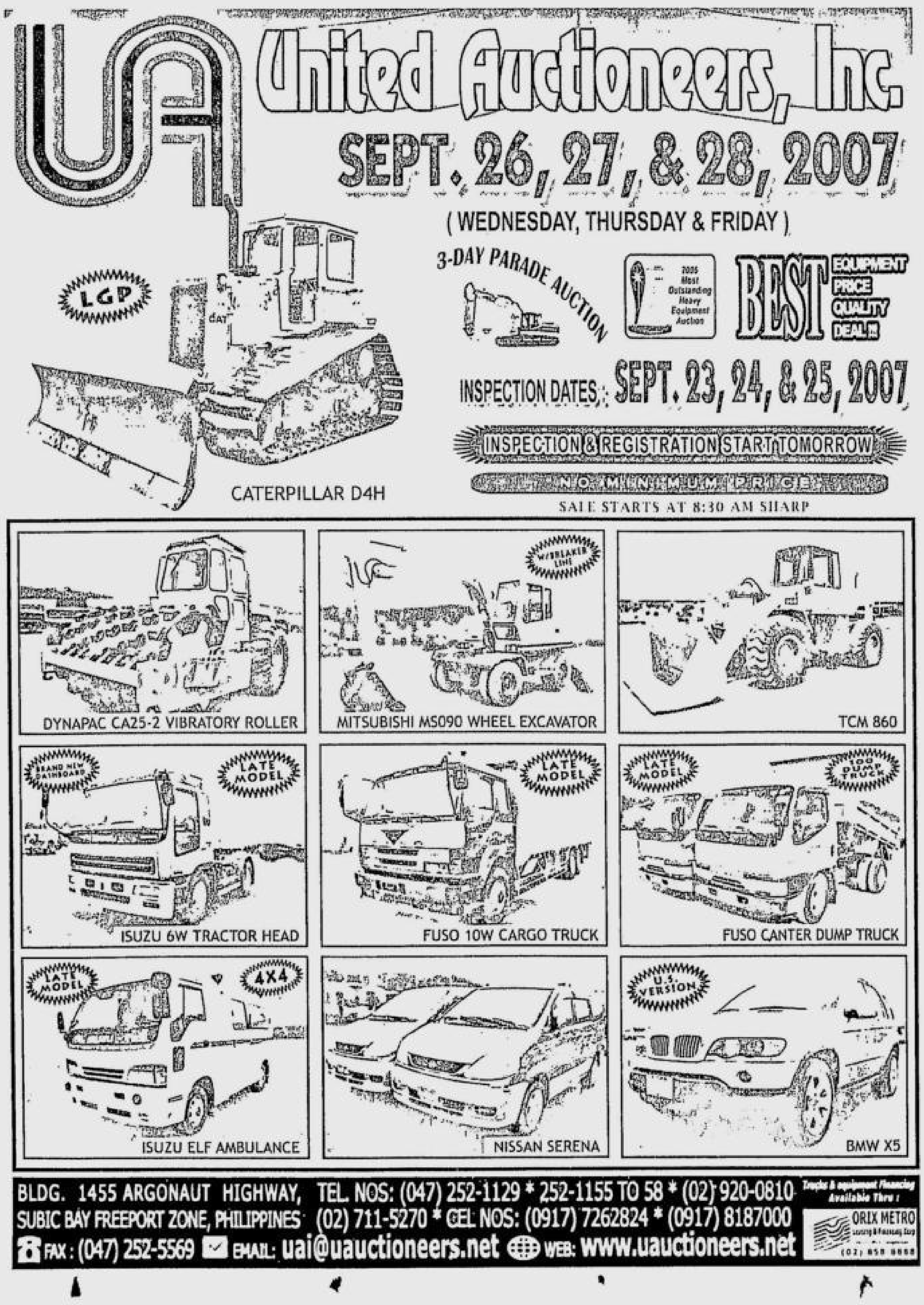
Oil prices up

LOCAL OIL FIRMS RAISED THE PUMP prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter, citing record high oil prices in the world market.

Industry leader Petron Corp., and Flying V implemented the price increase at 12:01 a.m. today while Eastern Petroleum Corp. increased its prices at noon.

This is the first oil price hike since July, with the last price adjustment—a reduction—implemented on Sept. 5.

The latest price hike brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P39.57 and P42.27 a liter, diesel to between P33.10 and P35.62 a liter and kerosene to between P36.65 and P40.80 a liter. *Abigail L. Ho*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Palace calls Senate stint 'constructive engagement'

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER BANNING CABINET OFFICIALS from attending Senate hearings for several months, Malacañang made a complete turnaround on Thursday, sending not only three, but 15 of its Cabinet officials to the joint Senate hearing on the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

A Malacañang official said yesterday that the NBN hearing has ushered in an era of the executive department pursuing a "constructive engagement with the Senate."

After the Palace snubbed the first NBN hearing on Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Cabinet officials who were summoned by the Senate to attend Thursday's joint inquiry of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee and Trade and Industry into the controversial deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Involving 464

In the past, Cabinet officials had continuously ignored Senate summons by invoking Executive Order 464, which requires members of the executive department to seek presidential consent prior to appearing in congressional inquiries.

"But we never wanted to invoke EO 464 (this time). We want to cooperate with the Senate investigations subject to the ruling of the Supreme Court in Senate versus Ermita," Presidential Management Staff head Cerge Remonde said, referring to the SC ruling which laid down the rules governing inquiries-in-aid of legislation.

For Thursday's hearing, the Senate had summoned only Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and former Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri to shed light on the NBN deal.

But to the surprise of the senators, 15 Cabinet officials led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita showed up at the Senate session hall. These include Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro, acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera and Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol.

Feeling good

"We felt good doing that. Everybody felt better," he said, thanking Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo—"one of the most respected administration senators"—for "expressing appreciation for our presence," said Remonde.

Remonde told the Inquirer that ranking officials of the Arroyo administration showed up during the hearing not only to provide "moral support" to Mendoza.

"We've shown to everyone that the executive wants to pursue a constructive engagement with the Senate," said Remonde, adding that in sending prominent members of the Cabinet to the Senate, the President was sending the message that she, too, "wants transparency."

He said it was a path that President Arroyo was taking following the May polls in which only three of her senatorial candidates managed to win.

"If you recall, we started with a series of Ledac (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council) meetings in hopes that we can forge a common legislative agenda," he said.

Poisoned atmosphere

But Remonde said the "atmosphere was poisoned by the very liberal usage of Executive Order 464."

Asked to assess the performance of the Cabinet insofar as defending the deal awarded to ZTE Corp., Remonde said it was "good enough."

He believed that both sides tried to advance their cause, proving that "democracy is alive in this country."

Told that Mendoza had failed to shed light on certain aspects of the deal, such as the personalities present during a meeting in mid-March at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Remonde said: "Nobody expected that these issues be resolved in one day ... one hearing."

Anwar tells Erap: Keep the faith

By Jocelyn R. Uy

"KEEP THE FAITH AND KEEP praying."

Former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim gave this advice to his close friend Joseph Estrada in a six-minute phone call late Thursday afternoon.

By his account, Estrada said Anwar phoned him at around 5 p.m. Thursday to wish him well and boost his morale. "He told me to keep on praying and he said the truth will set me free," the convicted former president said over the phone.

The last time he heard from Anwar, whom Estrada had befriended when he was still vice president, was in December 2004 when the Sandiganbayan granted him a medical pass for a knee operation.

"He called me up here. He is very much concerned about me as a friend," Estrada said yesterday.

Parallel lives

Anwar, considered one of Malaysia's charismatic leaders, was thrown out of office in 1998—three years before Estrada himself was ousted in a military-backed revolt, ordered arrested by then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and convicted of abuse of power and sodomy.

These parallel events in their political lives were not lost on Estrada. "We suffered the same fate but he is luckier because he was only detained for three years," said the 70-year-old former president, who had been under detention for six years and five months now.

Last week, the Sandiganbayan Special Division found Estrada guilty of plunder and sentenced him up to 40 years in prison, making him the first highest official in the Philippines to be convicted of plunder.

"On second thought, I was also lucky because I was not mauled, unlike him," Estrada said with a chuckle, recounting his brief conversation with Anwar, whom he described as a "very intelligent and sincere man who has many visions."

Anwar had initially planned to visit Estrada at his Tanay rest house, where the former president has been detained for three years now but the former was not allowed.

Asian democracy

Estrada said security has been beefed up around his rest house since the guilty verdict was handed down last week.

The former Malaysian leader arrived in Manila on Wednesday night for a speaking engagement at the 2nd World Forum for Democratization in Asia held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel the other day.

More than a hundred participants of the WFDA unanimously approved yesterday a Manila Declaration calling on all Asian nations to reject authoritarian rule, institute democratic reforms and respect human rights.

The Manila Declaration was issued on the International Day of Peace and the 35th anniversary of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines.

Internal conflicts

Participants led by Anwar stressed that "democracy and peace are both basic rights of all peoples, universal indivisible, interdependent and interrelated."

In their declaration, the WFDA participants stressed that internal conflicts must be resolved through democratic means and that all Asian countries should realize that military rule could not bring either democracy or genuine peace.

"Civil societies from around the region must work together to realize these goals. Therefore, as a platform of Asian democrats, we resolve to support each other and to share information and experience, in the spirit of true Asian solidarity," they stressed. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

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THE POWER TO LEAD

Martial law haunts anti-Marcos firebrand

By Jeannette I. Andrade

BONIFACIO ILAGAN WAS ONLY 23 years old when he first tasted the bitterness of martial law.

Now, some 33 years later, the memories of his suffering are haunting this firebrand who used to fire up student rallies that later become one of the excuses for the declaration of martial law in 1972.

According to Ilagan, the situation now is similar to the era of the Marcos tyranny where warrantless arrests, torture, censorship and enforced disappearances were common place.

"*Nagbabalik lahat* (Everything is coming back)," he said. "I never imagined extra-judicial killings would happen again."

Ilagan was a member of Panday Sining, a theater group based in University of the Philippines in Diliman, which produced socially realistic plays. When Presidential Proclamation 1081 was declared on Sept. 21, 1972, his group was included among the "illegal mass organizations."

"When we started the theater group, we were able to produce plays, but after martial law was declared, we received harassment and threats," he said.

Sometimes the electricity was cut off so they would not be able to present their plays, Ilagan said. Other times, there would be gunfire just outside the venue, prompting the audience to leave and the show would be cancelled.

BONI ILAGAN: Firebrand of the '70s JOAN BONDOC

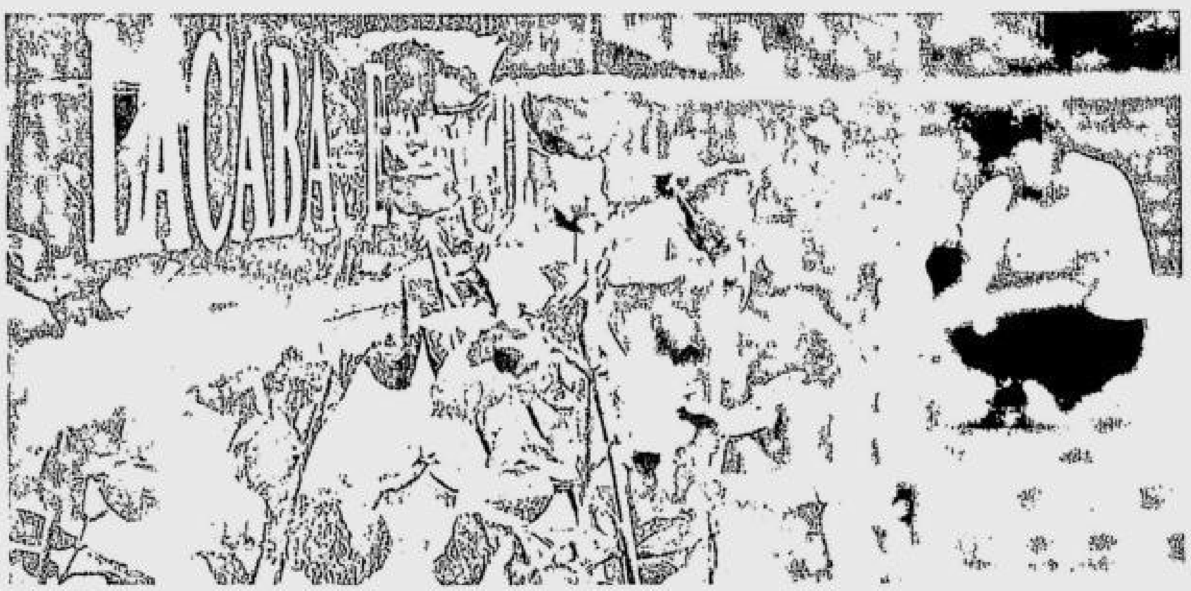
Going underground

Ilagan said his group was forced to go underground until his arrest in 1974. Along with writer Jose "Pete" Lacaba, they were taken to a safehouse and then the 5th Police Constabulary security unit in Camp Crame where they were detained for several years.

"Every time the intelligence agency wanted us to decode something or give them information about other people, they would get us and attempt to torture the information out of us," Ilagan said, adding that he was subjected to both physical and mental torture.

He endured punches, kicks, slaps, repeated piercing of his genitals, sleep deprivation and psychological torture where he would be taken on trips and told that he was going to be killed.

Then his sister Rizalina Ilagan disappeared in 1976.



FLOWERS, CANDLES and prayers are offered to martial law victims at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani . wall of remembrance to commemorate the 35th anniversary of martial law. JOAN BONDOC

Sister disappears

"She was 23 years old then and was a member of a group of activists in Southern Tagalog. She told us (Ilagan family) that the army was conducting surveillance on her group. After that, we never heard from or saw her again," Ilagan said.

Ilagan alleged that Rizalina, along with nine others in her group, had been arrested after then Minister of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile announced that Rizalina had joined the New People's Army (NPA).

Several years later, Ilagan said the bodies of Rizalina's two companions, Modesto Sison and Salvador Silva, were dug up from shallow graves in Lucena City and Tagaytay City.

But there was no trace of his sister.

"We never knew what happened to her. But we had a clue from the testimony of one of the claimants in the human rights case against the Marcoses. The witness said my sister had been captured by the MIG (military intelligence group)," Ilagan said.

Memorial wall

"This is why I know where the victims of human rights are coming from. I share their pain having been a victim [myself] and having a sister who disappeared," he said.

Ilagan is among the martial law heroes for whom a memorial wall was set up yesterday by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP).

The marble monument to one of the darkest eras of the country's history is inscribed with the following words: "In memory of the men and women of courage ... who stood up against tyranny, who defended human rights, who fought for justice, who struggled for peace. By your sacrifices we will carry on and will always remember. And to the generations to come... may they never taste the bitterness of dictatorship, nor the loneliness of detention, nor the immeasurable pain of torture... may they never experience the horrors of inhumanity."

Sister Ma. Luz Mijares of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines said: "The martial law years have left permanent scars on our society and on our psyche. It is fitting that we should have a permanent memorial to help us remember and reflect on these harrowing times ... through our reflection, we may seek to understand, to go forward into the future, holding dear to us the values which have sustained us through the years."

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Arroyos and Marcoses: 'Not much different'

By Tina G. Santos

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTORS MARCHED through the streets yesterday to denounce alleged political killings, human rights violations and corruption, saying little has changed since the repressive rule of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the '70s and '80s.

The protestors, including those from Southern Tagalog, massed at Morayta and Bustillos Streets in Sampaloc, Manila to mark the 35th anniversary of the imposition of martial law—a period marked by massive human rights violations.

Militant leaders said at least 5,000 of their members joined the mass action, while the police estimated the crowd at 8,000.

Carol Araullo, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said President Macapagal-Arroyo's government "has not learned the lessons of Marcos."

"It has engaged in gross human rights abuses such as killings and abductions. It has even rivaled previous regimes in terms of corruption," she said.

Marcos, who headed the country for 20 years, declared martial law in 1972 and ruled with an iron fist until he was ousted in a nonviolent "people power" revolt in 1986.

Thousands were jailed, tortured or killed under this rule. The media and Congress were muzzled, as communist and Muslim rebellions flourished.

Conjugal dictatorship

Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. His wife, Imelda Marcos, has since returned and the courts have dismissed a number of criminal cases against her.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said: "It was a conjugal dictatorship then by Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, now it's Gloria and Mike Arroyo. The issues before martial law was declared are still prevalent now. The only difference is that it was openly declared martial rule while Arroyo has not."

For his part, Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said: "Imelda was a public official then so she commanded a great influence. But Mike Arroyo is not even a public official, yet he is very influential ... The Marcos cronies have been replaced by the cronies and golfing buddies of the Arroyo regime. It's as if the administration has dragged the country back in time."

The protestors carried placards with pictures of Marcos and Ms Arroyo side by side, stamped with the words "No Different" in Filipino. Similar posters of the former First Lady and Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, bore the words, "Imelda before, Mike Arroyo today."

Merged

One group of protestors led by Reyes, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, gathered in front of the University of Santo Tomas at 10 a.m. They initially planned to march toward Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola) but they were blocked by more than a hundred policemen on Bustillos Street, a stone's throw away from the historic bridge.

At around 3 p.m., the protestors marched toward Morayta to join another group led by United Opposition president and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

"Ms Arroyo has surpassed Marcos in some ways because she did not declare martial law and yet so many people were abducted and killed under her rule," the protestors said.

They stressed that the current political climate was similar to that in 1970-72 just before Marcos declared martial law.

The demonstrators said that more protests can be expected with the issues hounding the Arroyo administration, particularly the National Broadband Network project.

With AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 22, 2007
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Tim 6:13-16
Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

As a great crowd gathered and people came to him from every town, Jesus began teaching them through stories, or parables, "The sower went out to sow the seed. And as he sowed, some of the grain fell along the way, was trodden on and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and no sooner had it come up than it withered, because it had no water. Some fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with the seed and choked it. But some fell on good soil and grew, producing fruit—a hundred times as much." And Jesus cried out, "Listen then, if you have ears to hear!"

The disciples asked him, "What does this story mean?" And Jesus answered, "You have been granted to know the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to others it is given in the form of stories, or parables, so that seeing they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand."

Now, this is the point of the parable:

The seed is the word of God. Those along the wayside are people who hear it, but immediately the devil comes and takes the word from their minds, for he doesn't want them to believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are people who receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe for a while and give way in time of trial. Among the thorns are people who hear the word but as they go their way, are choked by worries, riches, and the pleasures of life; they bring no fruit to maturity. The good soil, instead, are people who receive the word and keep it in a gentle and generous mind, and persevering patiently, they bear fruit.

Commentary

Jesus faced Pontius Pilate and spoke truthfully. We too must stand our ground before the nations/powers of the world and keep God's command over and above any command of the state. Our only ruler and lord is Jesus the crucified, and God the Father/Spirit who dwells in inapproachable light—yet we dwell within them by our baptisms. We are to live so as to honor them alone. How deep is our devotion to God? How do we live in the reign of our God, the reign of justice, peace, forgiveness, unity, and communion with all?

Jesus tells the story of the seed/sower and the ground. There is the footpath, shallow soil, and edges of the field choked with weeds. If the Word falls in any of these places it can barely get going and then dies/chokes or is blown away. If it falls in the field (community) then it can be harvested—100 fold! Amazing harvest. Do we understand? Every year we hear the Word—every year God waits for the grain/justice/food, the meal/Eucharist we share, and our excess that belongs to the poor of the world. What does God get from us this year?

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 21 ISSUE, a front page article—"GMA men swamp Senate; Mendoza clueless"—misstated the designation of Narciso Santiago Jr. Santiago is the presidential adviser for Western Visayas and the concurrent presidential adviser on revenue enhancement - not a presidential assistant.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Wet weather looms as La Niña develops

SOME AREAS OF LUZON, INcluding Metro Manila, and Visayas will experience above normal rainfall in the next three months, thanks to a mild episode of La Niña, weather bureau officials said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration said oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean showed an occurrence of an early phase of a weak La Niña.

La Niña is known as the "cold episode" because it is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific. It tends to bring wetter than normal conditions across the Pacific Northwest.

Pagasa acting director Martin Rellin Jr. said the patterns over the equatorial Pacific Ocean have influenced climate conditions in the country, and would affect rainfall patterns.

Toward the end of the month, Visayas, some areas of Luzon and Mindanao will experience "normal to above normal rainfall," he said.

"Wetter than normal conditions are likewise expected over the Visayas and some areas of Luzon, including Metro Manila, from October through December," Rellin said in a statement.

Below normal rainfall will prevail over most areas of northern Luzon in November, he added.

Rellin said that the weak La Niña would further develop and "possibly strengthen," and could adversely impact on domestic water supply, agriculture and the health sector.

"This may cause floods, flashfloods and rain-induced landslides in hazard-prone areas. Meanwhile, all government agencies and the public are advised to take appropriate measures to mitigate the potential impacts of La Niña," he said.

The weak La Niña followed the mild El Niño that brought below normal rainfall in November and December last year in southern Philippines.

La Niña, which is associated with increased rainfall, hit the country from December 2005 to March 2006, when most parts of the country experienced above average rainfall.

Mudslides triggered by heavy rains buried a community of 1,800 in Guinsaugon on Southern Leyte province in February 2006.

Marathon hearings for Imelda

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY of the declaration of martial law, the Sandiganbayan granted the request of the widow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos to conduct marathon hearings on her 10 graft cases pending before the antigraft court.

The Fifth Division chair, Associate Justice Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada, announced in open court yesterday that a continuous trial on the cases against former first lady Imelda Marcos would begin on Jan. 21 next year.

"The calendar is already full for continuous trial up to December," Estrada yesterday informed Marcos lawyer, Benjamin Santos, upon scheduling the daily hearings.

Early this week, Santos filed a petition urging the antigraft court to expedite the trial, which officially began in 2000, citing the various ailments that have been afflicting his 78-year-old client.

The graft cases were in connection with the former first lady's alleged management of supposed five Marcos dummy foundations believed to have been used to hide $590 million in ill-gotten wealth from 1968 to 1971.

Santos, in an interview with reporters after the hearing, said they will suggest that the prosecution instead file one affidavit covering the entire graft cases so that its witnesses would not need to give its direct testimony based on the affidavit.

Korean held for beads in backpack

BEADS and other fashion accessories found in the backpack of an arriving South Korean tourist are being inspected by airport Customs deputy collector Celso Templo. JESS YUSON

A KOREAN TOURIST WAS arrested upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 on Tuesday after 23 kilos of accessories and assorted jewelry were found in his carry-on luggage.

Immigration and Customs authorities found beads, sequins, plated pendants and chains which were of commercial quantity inside the backpack of Kim Chang Mo, who arrived on board a Korean Air flight from Seoul around 11 p.m. Tuesday.

"He was intercepted for not declaring goods of commercial quantity, which is not fit for his stay here as a tourist. He should have declared it and signified his intent to pay customs duties and taxes," Deputy Customs Commissioner Celso Templo told reporters yesterday.

The contraband was found in separate packs inside his carry-on bag during screening at the arrival area, customs police said in a report. Kim was immediately detained and his bag seized by authorities.

As the seized items were "freely importable articles," Templo said the jewelry materials could have been brought into the country legally if Kim had only followed proper importation procedure.

He added it was suspicious for a tourist to be bringing into Manila such amount of raw materials.

"It is not appropriate for a tourist to be bringing that much raw materials. That showed an intent for him to commit something not in accordance with regulations," Templo said.

Customs examiners have yet to determine the value of the seized items and whether any of them were genuine.

"We don't know yet if they are genuine or fake. That's what we're going to determine that's why now, we are at the stage of verification of value," Templo said.

The customs bureau also has yet to determine what charges may be filed against Kim. He is currently under the custody of immigration authorities. *Tarra Quismundo*

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My morals came from my father, says Joey de Venecia

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

"MY MORALS CAME FROM MY father."

Businessman Jose de Venecia III made this declaration to explain why he spurned what he said was a bribe offer from Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos amounting to $10 million, or six times his net worth.

The alleged proposed bribe was to be in exchange for De Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., dropping its proposal to install a National Broadband Network (NBN) for the government and giving way to China's ZTE Corp.

Abalos has vehemently denied making any such proposition. ZTE Corp. eventually bagged the deal.

Despite growing up in a family of political and money brokers, the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia said he did not think twice about rejecting the alleged offer.

"I'm not driven by money," the younger De Venecia said during a dinner with INQUIRER editors Wednesday night.

Although his parents broke up when he was six months old, De Venecia said he still looked up to his politician dad as his role model.

"My value system came from my father. My morals came from my father. There is nobody else that I looked up to," he said after INQUIRER editors pointed out that his father had been seen as part—if not symbol—of the country's traditional, pork-barrel politics.

Bigger picture

De Venecia said he talked to his father and "he told me to look at the bigger picture ... 'You will fight Abalos and (Transportation Secretary) Leandro Mendoza? You cannot win against them.' But I told him what about truth?"

He said his father was very much worried for his sake and also pointed out to him the probable damage to the country's bilateral relations with China of his exposé.

He said he also realized the impact of his revelations on his father's position in the House.

No pressure from father

But he said he told his father: "What is there to lose? You have been Speaker for five terms. This is a moral challenge for me ... I think I am in a position to say all about this corruption."

He said that he never felt any pressure from his father to withdraw from the entire business affair.

"If you really need to say it, then say it," he quoted his father as saying.

Meeting Mike Arroyo

De Venecia said he also told his father of his meeting with Abalos and President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club where Mr. Arroyo—by De Venecia's account—thrust a finger at his face and told him to "back off."

"*Nabigla ang tatay ko. 'Talaga?'* (My father was surprised. 'Really?')," he said.

As De Venecia began to give his story to the media, the Speaker cautioned him.

"Okay, if you're going to mention the First Gentleman there ... you have to weigh the ramifications," he quoted his father as saying.

Brought JDV-GMA together

De Venecia said he was instrumental in then Senator Macapagal-Arroyo's pairing with his father in the 1998 presidential election.

"I helped bring them together. I didn't meet the President personally then but I was able to help bring her and my father together," De Venecia said, trying to illustrate that he had no ill intentions toward Ms Arroyo and her family.

"There was a time in (the run-up to) the 1998 elections when the President's brother, (Diosdado Jr.) Buboy Macapagal, approached me to help him if possible to bring his sister to team up with my father," De Venecia recalled.

Ms Arroyo and then Sen. Vicente Sotto III were supposed to team up as presidential and vice presidential candidates of the fledgling Kampi party. But Sotto later fell out of the vice presidential race.

Buboy's role

"Buboy and I were then partners in (one of my companies) ... So I told my father about the request to bring the two of them together," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said his father at that time seemed to have committed the Lakas party's vice presidential nomination to then Sen. Robert "Bobby" Barbers."

"My father had to first convince Bobby Barbers (to give way). When he was already able to convince him, it was then that he told me to call Buboy. It was Buboy who arranged their first meeting," De Venecia said.

As history would have it, then Vice President Joseph Estrada thumped De Venecia in the presidential elections. Ms Arroyo, however, emerged victorious over Estrada's running mate, Sen. Edgardo Angara.

JDV: If there's oust threat, will crush it

From page A1

Venecia's testimony implicating Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal.

"I am torn between my love for my son and my love for the President," he said. But he added that he would not reach the point of having to make the ultimate choice, and neither would administration allies in the House.

"That will not arise because the relationship is stable; the coalition is impregnable," the Speaker said, referring to the administration coalition composed largely of Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) and his Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

"I don't need to make a choice because I am for my son and I am for the President," he said.

'A little delicate'

Joey de Venecia told the Senate on Tuesday that Mike Arroyo had thrust a finger at his face and told him to "back off" from the NBN deal.

The Speaker admitted yesterday that his son's testimony had had some effect on his relationship with Ms Arroyo, his running mate in his failed bid for the presidency in 1998.

"There's a little effect, but she knows in her heart that I had nothing to do with it," he said, acknowledging that the current political scene was "a little delicate."

"To clear the air" between the two of them, he said, they had a 45-minute meeting in Malacañang at around 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

The meeting, which was arranged by Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa, took place shortly after administration congressmen had dinner at the Palace, purportedly to express support for Ms Arroyo in the wake of the NBN scandal.

At the meeting, De Venecia told Ms Arroyo that his son had not accused her husband of any wrongdoing in connection with the NBN deal.

Asked if Ms Arroyo had assured him of Malacañang's continued support, the Speaker said: "I don't need to ask that from her ... The same way that when I support her, she doesn't have to beg or ask me.

"I just do it because we're allies. We know what to do. The mere fact that she invited me [to Malacañang] was enough. We discussed things objectively."

Earlier in the week, De Venecia acknowledged that a crisis was brewing as a result of his son's testimony at the Senate.

But he pointed out that his son had "continuously defended" the President, referring to Joey de Venecia's statement that she was never involved in the brokering of the NBN deal.

Asked then how he was doing, the Speaker said: "As usual, managing even in crisis.

"I am torn between my loyalty to the President and my love for my son. But actually, there really is no problem.

"It is only the media that is making all these allegations [of a rift]."

Threat from a few

The Speaker dismissed the threat to unseat him as coming from a few House members loyal to Ms Arroyo but who had dissociated themselves from him.

"As early as the battle for the speakership [against Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia in July], it has always been the President's allies, like [Sorsogon Rep. Jose] Solis, the likes of [Camarines Sur Rep. Luis] Villafuerte. That's all, period. There's no more," he said.

Garcia told the INQUIRER yesterday that there was "no move" to oust De Venecia, at least for now.

He said his group was leaving the matter to other members of the bloc and the President herself. "We will meet in the coming days and get a consensus," he said.

The so-called Garcia group was formed initially as a "conscience" bloc soon after the Cebu congressman lost in the speakership race.

Even Kampi chair and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said Kampi had no plan to work for De Venecia's ouster.

Anyway, Puno told reporters, there was "not enough of a vote in the House" that could unseat De Venecia now.

"For the record, there is no attempt to unseat the Speaker. For the record, I think Congress will remain in its present form and continue to work under its present organization," Puno said.

He also said it was not a good time for the House to change leadership because its members had been assigned their committees and were buckling down to work.

He added that it was too late now for Congress "to start from scratch."

Asked whether Ms Arroyo still supported De Venecia, Puno said: "I don't think there has been any change in the attitude of the President toward Lakas as a party, the coalition in general, and the congressional leadership."

'We will overcome'

De Venecia expressed confidence that he still enjoyed the "overwhelming" support of members of the House. He apparently arrived at this conclusion after a series of meetings with coalition members that began on Wednesday and went on until Thursday night.

"We're going through a period of political turbulence," he said. "[But] I think that by and large, we will overcome it. We have no major differences within the majority coalition."

De Venecia pointed out that his meeting with Ms Arroyo was arranged by Deputy Speaker Villarosa, a member of Kampi.

"I can't just go meet the President without any invitation. We don't want to impose on her hospitality even if we're very close friends," he said.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo continued to back him as Speaker and as her top ally in the House because he continued to support her as President.

Proof of Ms Arroyo's support, he said, was his retaining his post despite the serious challenge posed by Garcia in July.

Counting the ways

De Venecia ticked off the occasions when, he said, he showed Ms Arroyo that he would support her "come hell or high water."

"I have supported her in the impeachment battle, in the Cabinet revolt against her," he said.

The first referred to the two failed efforts to impeach Ms Arroyo as a result of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, and the second, to the mass resignation of members of her Cabinet—collectively known as the "Hyatt 10"—who called on her to step down amid allegations that she had manipulated the 2004 presidential election.

De Venecia also cited the time when he and former President Fidel Ramos went to Malacañang to throw their support behind Ms Arroyo at the height of calls for her ouster.

"Many [people] were saying that [we came to her rescue," he said. "But I don't even give importance to that. I just do things for her in the same way that she does things for me."

He also said he staked whatever little popularity he had in supporting the unpopular Expanded Value-Added Tax Law that the Arroyo administration pushed in the 13th Congress.

Exercise in futility

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said lawmakers numbering not more than 10 had been "agitating [other lawmakers] for the ouster of the Speaker."

"It's an exercise in futility," Defensor told the INQUIRER. "Even Pablo (Garcia) is not up to it. It's just the people around him."

Agusan del Norte Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, a senior member of the House opposition, told reporters that he would support De Venecia if push came to shove.

"He could have asked his son not to testify against the First Gentleman, but he did not," Plaza said of the Speaker. "Somebody like that deserves support." *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

'Joey more credible; Mendoza did not answer simple questions'

From page A1

President. As for Mendoza, he has his job to protect, and other things too," Pimentel said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said De Venecia fared better than Mendoza, "hands down," at the Senate hearings.

"Whatever motive he might have had before has been overshadowed by his manifestation to completely abandon his bid for the NBN project. The answers he provided administration allies only reinforced his credibility," Lacson said.

Sen. Francis Escudero agreed, saying De Venecia had come across as "forthright, straightforward, to the point and consistent."

"But I am not sure if he still knows more than what he is saying," Escudero said.

What was revealing, the senator said, was Mendoza's failure to respond to simple questions about his department without the help of another person.

"Which begs the question: How can he implement the project?" Escudero said.

'Quarrel among fixers'

Sen. Arroyo, however, said the deal was nothing more than "a quarrel among fixers who, with the landscape getting clear, could not agree on the division of spoils."

"The joint committees should continue with their investigation of the procedural irregularities of persons who have intervened or participated in the contract. They have no business doing so because that is against the law," Arroyo said.

The Senate committees on defense, trade and blue ribbon are jointly probing the NBN deal.

But to Speaker De Venecia he and his namesake son are "on high moral ground. If I asked the President for the contract, AHI might have gotten it. But my son wanted to do things strictly on his own," the Speaker said.

"My son was proud of his proposal," De Venecia said, adding that AHI had proposed that the national broadband project be undertaken through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, "at no cost to the government and without a government loan."

On Mendoza's testimony that the Speaker had lobbied for AHI to get the contract, De Venecia said what he had proposed was to transform the project into a BOT plan.

"And all three proponents—ZTE Corp., AHI and the US-based Arescom—can compete for the BOT project," the Speaker said, adding that Mendoza must have "mistaken my proposal as lobbying for AHI alone."

On same flight

According to the Speaker, what he asked Ms Arroyo was for her to rescind the contract with ZTE Corp. He said the deal with the Chinese telecommunications firm entailed a multimillion-dollar government loan obligation and a government guarantee.

"She told me that she would tell [Trade Secretary] Peter Favila about it," he said of Ms Arroyo's reaction to his request.

Speaker De Venecia also confirmed that he was on the same golf flight as Ms Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to Shenzhen, China. But he said he could not remember the date.

"I recall the President saying, 'Why can't we undertake the project through a BOT scheme? That way, it can be done without cost to the government,'" the Speaker said. He said he could not recall Ms Arroyo saying ZTE should instead copy the AHI plan.

In his testimony at the Senate on Tuesday, Joey de Venecia quoted his father as telling him that Ms Arroyo asked Abalos during a golf game in Shenzhen why ZTE could not just undertake the project the way AHI had proposed.

Joey de Venecia has alleged that Abalos brokered and lobbied for the ZTE contract worth $329 million. (AHI's unsolicited proposal involved more than $200 million.)

Unity meeting

The Speaker denied inviting Mendoza to his residence so he could broker for the AHI proposal.

"Mendoza came to my house for breakfast to broker a unity meeting at Wack Wack. So I invited my son to come over. In the process, I told Mendoza, 'So there will be no damage, no accusations, just make the project a BOT project and let everybody bid,'" the Speaker said.

In his testimony, Joey de Venecia said Abalos became cross with him following his insistence that the broadband project be done through a BOT process.

The Speaker insisted that under the AHI proposal, "the government will not be obligated to pay a loan; there will be no sovereign guarantee."

"If you change the terms of reference and allow ZTE, AHI and Arescom to participate, no party will be harmed. Everybody will be happy," he said.

He reiterated that Mendoza must have thought that he was "lobbying only for AHI."

"I wanted all to participate [in bidding for a BOT project]," he added.

No longer interested

The Speaker, however, said that even if the ZTE deal were rescinded, his son would no longer take part in the broadband project: "My son and I talked. He said he's no longer interested."

As for Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte's remark that he might have brokered contracts that redounded to his financial benefit, the Speaker said he no longer had business interests that might be served by his lobbying.

"I've been pushing for BOT contracts ... that have been extremely successful. I pushed for the privatization of Clark and Subic. I made many enemies because of that. There is also a proposed railways project. I've been continuously pushing for it," he said, adding:

"But I've divested myself of all business interests since 1985.

"You can check that with the Makati Business Club and other groups that might have records."

The Speaker said all he was looking out for in pushing for certain contracts was the Philippines' development.

"I have used whatever political influence and advocacy I have—and the foreign friendships I have made—to initiate government-to-government initiatives and projects that have brought foreign investments into our country," he said.

Among these projects, he said were plans to rebuild the Luzon railway grid, set up agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems and fishing ports, rehabilitate the mining industry, develop Fort Bonifacio, and convert Subic, Clark Field, Baguio City's John Hay, and La Union's Poro Point under the US Bases Conversion Plan.

Liable for graft

"I have not profited personally from any of these ventures, which are being undertaken by foreign governments, public corporations, or private enterprise," he said.

According to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the Speaker could be liable for graft as a result of his supposed lobbying for AHI.

"If he has been accurately and correctly quoted by Secretary Mendoza, the language alone is already implicative of criminal liability because he was trying to influence the procurement of a government contract involving public funds," Santiago told reporters.

"It falls under the specific and express prohibition of the Anti-Graft Practices Act. He is a relative within the third degree of consanguinity of the interested party," she said.

Santiago said there would have been no violation of the law if the Speaker had only invited Mendoza to his house to introduce his son.

"But the moment he introduces the element of his son, [AHI] and the ZTE contract, there is a clear violation of the law," she said.

Remember September '72

From page A1

of China to dock at Manila's South Harbor

- **World current events:** Ugandan refugees who fled the persecution of the country's military dictator, Idi Amin, arrived in Britain. A diplomat was killed by a letter bomb during a parcel attack at the Israeli Embassy in London.

Sources: Graphic and Free Press (September 1972) / Compiled by Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research

Trillanes to present 'surprise' witness

DETAINED COUP LEADER, SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV, will present a "surprise witness" at his trial on coup d'etat charges next month, his lawyer said yesterday.

The witness is a high government official who will ostensibly prove that no coup d'etat occurred on July 27, 2003 when a heavily armed Trillanes and his co-accused junior officers, who styled themselves as the Magdalo group, occupied the Oakwood Premier hotel at the Makati commercial center for more than 24 hours.

Reynaldo Robles, Trillanes' lawyer, said arrangements were being made so the official can take the stand and vouch for the innocence of Trillanes and his co-accused.

The lawyer refused to divulge the official's identity, saying only that he holds a "sensitive position" in government and that he knew the true story behind the Oakwood mutiny.

"He will say that Trillanes and the others did not commit coup d'etat and that there was no coup d'etat in Oakwood," said Robles, who represents 13 other accused junior officers.

The witness will be presented on either Nov. 8 or 15, the dates set by the court for the defense panel's presentation of evidence.

Robles refused to say whether the official was serving in Congress or the Cabinet.

"I will say this, it's definitely not President Macapagal-Arroyo," the lawyer said.

On Wednesday, Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel indicated that he wanted the trial to finish by the end of the year and set weekly dates for the presentation of defense evidence beginning October.

He said the junior officers deserve an expeditious resolution of their four-year-old case.

DJ Yap

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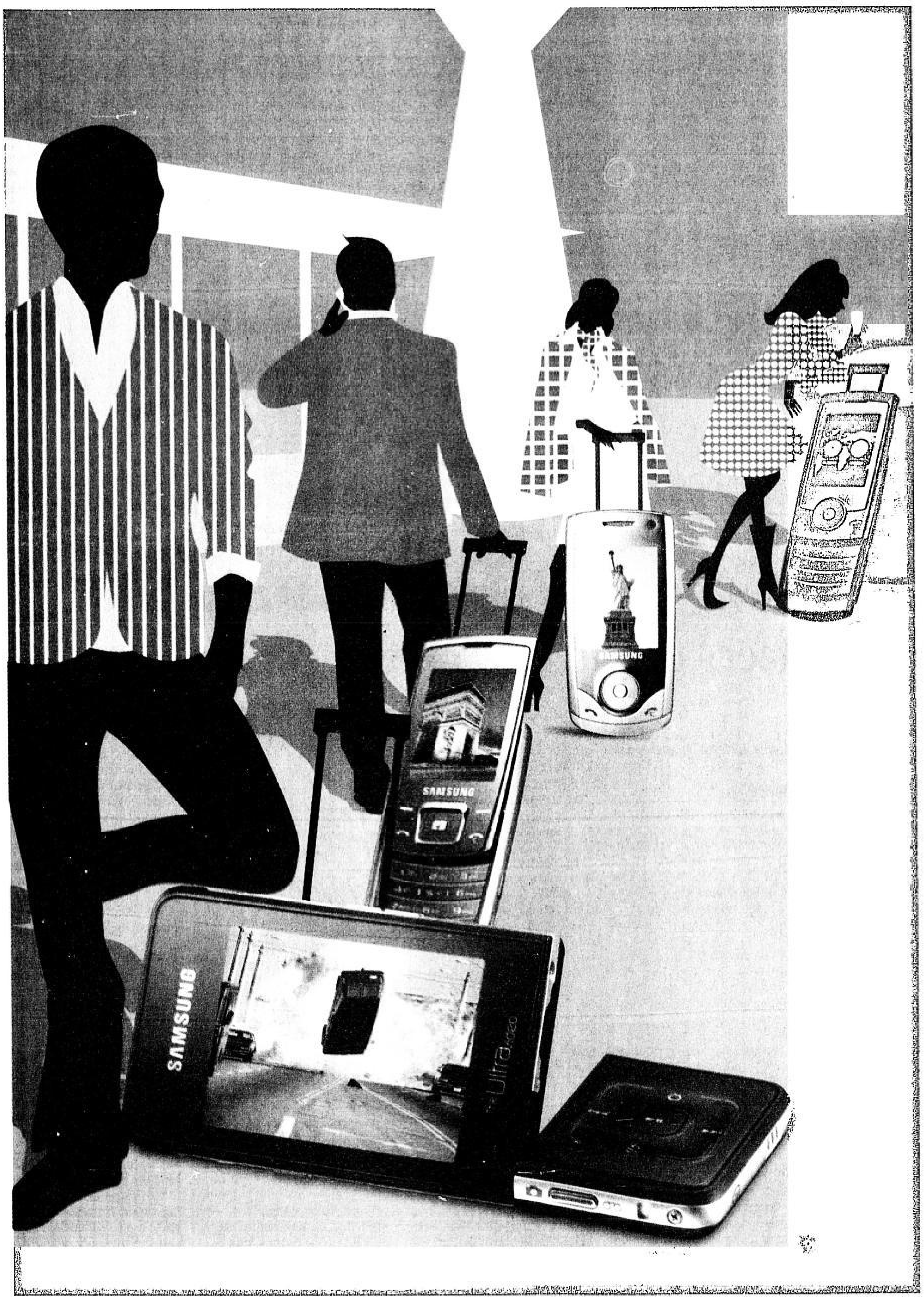

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NERI: I guess the cops are looking after my security.

Neri: I'm under surveillance by police

By Kristine L. Alave

COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) Chair Romulo Neri has received added security ahead of his testimony at the Senate next week on the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with the Chinese firm ZTE Corp.

In a television interview with ABS-CBN, Neri said: "The Palace is giving me some additional security...There were some people (conducting) some surveillance (on me)."

Neri left his house on Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, yesterday with extra security personnel.

Neri told the media that some men had placed his house under surveillance the other day, when members of the Cabinet testified at the Senate investigation to defend the NBN project.

Neri said the men were members of the police intelligence. "I guess they wanted to be sure I was secure," he said.

Sought by the INQUIRER for comment on supposed threats to his life, Neri only sent a short message, saying: "I'm okay."

Prior to coming to CHEd, Neri was the chief of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The Neda board, which is chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, evaluates and approves government-to-government contracts, like the NBN deal.

Neri said he would attend the Senate investigation next week, but declined to give details of his testimony. He said he did not attend Thursday's Senate hearing because he was suffering from intestinal flu.

Abalos: It was Joey who pursued me in places I frequent

From page A1

coming to see me if I was the one who needed something from him? It was all in the places [I frequent] that Joey [De Venecia] and I meet and never at his place or places where he is supposed to go. It means that things could be the opposite of what he said, it could be that he was the one who needed something from me, right?" Abalos said in Filipino.

The Comelec chair did not go into detail, however, hinting only at how he would go about defending himself from De Venecia's allegations about his involvement in how the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. obtained the $329-million NBN contract when he faces Senate interrogators next week.

"We will know the story in the Senate hearings," was all Abalos would say.

The beleaguered Comelec chair celebrated his birthday yesterday with his wife, two daughters and granddaughter at the Comelec office in Manila.

Meetings in Abalos turf

Abalos pointed out that De Venecia's accusations often referred to the two of them meeting at Abalos' "territory," either his residence, his office, or the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong.

If he wanted something from De Venecia, wouldn't the normal thing be for him to go to De Venecia's residence or office? the Comelec chair asked.

"That alone belies that I ever asked him for anything," said Abalos.

De Venecia, a son of House Speaker Jose de Venecia, is the founder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), which submitted an unsolicited proposal for the NBN project to the Department of Transportation and Communications but lost out to the Chinese telecom firm ZTE.

AHI owes money

De Venecia has accused Abalos of brokering the ZTE deal in exchange for a commission and of trying to bribe De Venecia with $10 million for the latter to back out of the NBN project. He also implicated President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in the efforts to make him back out of the project.

According to Abalos, AHI actually owed money to ZTE which was why De Venecia had approached him for help with the Chinese telecommunication firm.

"Do you know that AHI, where De Venecia used to be chairman, owed money to ZTE? Therefore, he wasn't on ZTE's good side. Then he approached me, maybe he is the one who needs something from me," he said in Filipino.

Abalos also pointed out that it was clear from the testimony of DOTC officials at the Senate hearing last Thursday that the agency had already designated ZTE for the NBN project as early as Dec. 2, 2006.

Thus, he would have no more need to try to bribe De Venecia, as was alleged, since the contract was already designated, he said.

"Why would there be any need to make him withdraw?" said Abalos.

De Venecia alleged that he met with Abalos sometime in December 2006 and that Abalos asked him to drop his bid for the NBN project in exchange for $10 million.

Just pleasantries

Earlier, in an interview in Cagayan de Oro last Thursday, Abalos confirmed having seen Mike Arroyo at the Wack Wack club house at the time when Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and De Venecia were having a meeting there last March.

But Abalos clarified that Mike Arroyo was not with Mendoza and De Venecia at the time.

"He was sitting at a separate table," he said.

Abalos said he exchanged pleasantries with Mendoza and Mike Arroyo as he usually does when seeing acquaintances there but said they did not talk long.

"Nothing else, just pleasantries," said Abalos who met with Mindanao poll officials in Cagayan de Oro last Thursday.

Abalos said he was willing to face the Senate blue ribbon committee so he could clear his name.

He said his lawyers were also finalizing plans for the filing of a P10-million libel suit against De Venecia "for his false and baseless accusations." *With a report from Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao*

JOAN BONDOC

"ALERT FORCES:" The Army's 54th Infantry Battalion from Gamu, Isabela, and another battalion from the 760 Combat Group of the Air Force Special Operations Wing from Clark Air Base arrive in Metro Manila (at left) to reinforce the NCR Command.

ADDITIONAL FORCES (right) will also help tighten security around the jails holding the military officers involved in the past coup plots.

ROMEO GACAD/AFP

AFP sacks 6 junior officers tied to new plot

From page A1

military, soldiers holding the rank of captain or below are considered junior officers.

Civilian component

Esperon also said the AFP was looking into the possibility that the alleged destabilizers had a civilian component that included opposition personalities.

Malacañang said fresh moves to destabilize the Arroyo administration did not take off because soldiers refused to get involved.

"There are such moves," Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno told reporters. "There have been some reports of people calling people, texting people, asking them to join."

But he said the instigators did not succeed because "I think the (soldiers) have become fed up with these (destabilization) moves."

Asked about the personalities involved, Puno said: "Probably the same group ... I think that they are not new faces."

Esperon said the six junior officers had been either relieved or reassigned within the last week for allegedly recruiting fellow officers and soldiers to join in the plot.

Text messages

"We have done some moves, short of arresting them like reassigning them or putting them on hold, and continuing surveillance on them," Esperon said.

He said the six junior officers had been caught spreading mobile phone text messages urging soldiers to join the plot, Reuters reported.

Esperon claimed that retired or former military officers were behind the fresh plot to topple the government.

"They have already been discharged and now they want others to be discharged, too. They are attempting to get our soldiers involved," Esperon said in Filipino.

'Alert forces'

Esperon said that aside from the junior officers, there were also enlisted personnel taking part in the recruitment.

"But it is also junior officers and enlisted personnel who are reporting these activities to their commanders," Esperon said.

The Army's 54th Infantry Battalion from Gamu, Isabela, and a battalion from the 760th Combat Group of the Air Force Special Operations Wing (SPOW) from Clark Air Base in Pampanga, had been brought to Metro Manila as "alert forces," NCRCom spokesperson Capt. Carlo Ferrer said.

The NCRCom itself has an armed strength of about 3,000 men.

Troops intercepted

Early yesterday morning, the Air Force battalion, composed of some 200 men trained in ground combat and riding on several military trucks, was intercepted at a Philippine National Police (PNP) checkpoint in Balintawak, Quezon City on their way to Camp Aguinaldo.

Esperon said the checkpoint was not immediately informed of the movement of the battalion, but it was coordinated with the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

"Those were our elements that are attached to the NCRCom. They were cleared with the headquarters," said Air Force Lt. Col. Allan Ballesteros.

He said the police interception was a "minor incident."

Esperon said the military considered the recruitment unsucccessful because no unauthorized troop movements had been monitored.

Esperon said that while soldiers were initially "disturbed" by controversy over the telecommunications deal with China, the Senate hearings had paved the way for a better understanding of the issue.

He said the soldiers were aware of the issues and the "motives" of the destabilizers.

Diverting attention

Analysts cautioned that the government could be heightening the alleged threat to the Arroyo administration to divert attention from the kickbacks scandal and keep the opposition in check, according to Reuters.

"There might be a group of rogue soldiers but they don't have the capability to topple the government. Besides, most of their leaders are under detention," Earl Parreno, a political analyst at the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms, was quoted by Reuters as saying.

REUTERS

ESPERON: There are attempts. We want to be on the safe side.

"There's a propaganda war going on," he added.

National Police Chief Oscar Calderon said security forces were still on "normal alert" and ruled out the participation of the police in any destabilization efforts.

"We have been coordinating with the Armed Forces on the possibility of ongoing recruitment in their ranks," he said.

Calderon said there was no "crack" within the ranks of police officers, "although we don't discount the possibility that some would be enticed to join, but at this time I can assure everybody that the PNP is very solid."

He confirmed police were monitoring some personalities.

Same old faces

"We have the same characters, players and we are monitoring. We're only monitoring them since there are no covert actions yet from the other side."

Calderon refused to name any personality and said the plotters were still in the "organizing" stage.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said he did not take lightly the destabilization reports but he believed those behind the plot would fail.

"Are these activities succeeding or not? I do not think so, and I am confident of the unity and the integrity of the Armed Forces and their loyalty to the chain of command,"

Teodoro said at a Manila Overseas Press Club forum Thursday night. *With a report from Tarra Quismundo*

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God's defense in lawsuit falls from on high

From page A1

all of a sudden was here, poof!" said John Friend, clerk of the Douglas County District Court in Omaha.

The response was one of at least two to a lawsuit filed against God last week by state Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, the state's longest-serving lawmaker.

Chambers said in his five-page lawsuit that God has made terroristic threats against him and his constituents, inspired fear and caused "widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants."

Agnostic lawmaker

The self-proclaimed agnostic is seeking a permanent injunction against God.

Signed by "God," the response filed Wednesday argues the defendant is immune from some earthly laws and that the court lacks jurisdiction over God.

Blaming the Almighty for human oppression and suffering misses an important point, it says.

St. Michael witness

"I created man and woman with free will and next to the promise of immortal life, free will is my greatest gift to you," according to the response.

St. Michael the Archangel is listed as a witness, Friend said.

Another response, also signed God, says the Lord disputes Chambers' allegations.

That filing lists a phone number for a Texas law office. A message left there was not immediately returned Thursday.

Chambers could not be reached Thursday.

Chambers said his lawsuit is serious but also makes a point: Anybody can sue anybody. *AP*

PGH unit helps fight rise in child abuse

REPORTS OF CHILD abuse are on the rise and a small group of professionals are fighting public apathy and ignorance to protect the country's 31 million children.

Child abuse remains substantially under-reported and is prevalent among poor and well-off families alike, according to a press statement by Dr. Bernadette Madrid, a director of the country's first ever Child Protection Unit (CPU) at the UP-PGH Hospital.

Starting tomorrow, the Philippines will host a four-day international conference on the prevention of child abuse and neglect to find ways to address this growing problem, she said.

Organized in 1997, the CPU annually receives about 1,000 new cases of abuse against a child, who is defined by law as one below 18 years old.

In 1996, she said, there were only 96 child abuse cases seen at PGH. In 1997, with the CPU already active, the number jumped to 357. This pattern could be worse outside Metro Manila.

In Mindoro, for instance, only 1-2 child abuse cases were reported per month, if at all. However, when a CPU was put up, the cases increased to 1-2/day. Now there are 26 CPUs all over the country but the goal is to have at least one per province.

Most of the cases reported involve child sexual abuse (70 percent). Less than 10 percent of the cases brought to CPUs are physical abuse cases since corporal punishment is very much accepted in our country today. Neglect is almost never reported unless the child is abandoned since it is looked upon as due to "poverty."

"This is a big problem for all of us. One abused child is one too many. If that abused child displays deviant behavior, society is affected," she said.

Doctors, lawyers, police officers, social workers are all working together to protect the country's children and help those traumatized by their experience.

Katrina Legarda, a lawyer of the UP-PGH CPU, said child abuse perpetuates itself.

"The victims of today become the perpetrators later because they think it is normal behavior. It is like when a parent curses, it is likely his children will curse, too," Legarda said.

The recent and well-documented deviant behavior of some movie stars in the US, she said, could be attributed to abuse from within a dysfunctional family when they were young.

The CPUs want to educate the public to change how they think and behave. For those already considered victims, there is professional intervention. As for the culprits, the lawyers and the police will take the lead.

Legarda successfully prosecuted former congressman Romeo Jalosjos for molesting a 12-year-old girl.

"Many of our children live in poverty, which puts them at risk. But even among the rich, child abuse is rampant although reporting is scant for fear of the perpetrator, shame, guilt and family backlash," Madrid said.

Poverty, however, is not a reason to abuse children, she added. "It is how we think. Some parents think they own children and can do anything with them. Others expect their children to support the family."

The government has a big role to play in solving this. Providing job opportunities and improving social services, for instance, will go a long way, she said.

"Child trafficking is not just within the country. Girls below 18 are being lured for jobs abroad and more often than not are forced into prostitution. We must put a stop to this," Legarda said.

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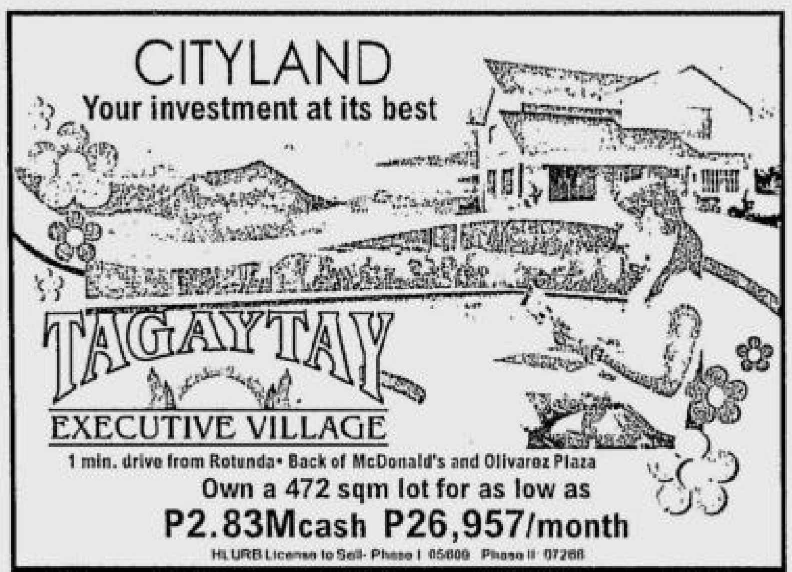

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50th National Medicine Week Celebration

September 23 to 29, 2007

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

GENERAL PROGRAM

September 23, 2007

Wreath Laying Ceremonies – 7 AM
Luneta, Rizal Monument

Thanksgiving Mass – 8 AM
Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavillion

Opening Ceremonies – 9 AM
Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavillion

September 24, 2007 / 7 AM to 9 AM
Luntiang PMA – Marikina Riverbanks, Marikina City

PMA – UNILAB 4th Singing Physicians Contest
Preliminary Elimination – September 24, 2007 / Monday
1 PM , PMA Boardroom

GRAND FINALS – September 25, 2007 / Tuesday
7 PM, PMA Auditorium

September 24 – 28, 2007 / 8 AM to 12 NN
Daily Free Medical and Dental Clinic – PMA Indigency Center

September 24 - 26, 2007 / 8 AM to 12 NN
Daily Layfora

September 26, 2007 / Wednesday, 6 PM
Senior Physicians' Night
Casino Filipino, Tagaytay City

September 27, 2007 / Thursday
29th Physicians' Day Celebration
25th TOPICS Awarding Ceremonies
6:30 PM, Manila Pavilion

September 29, 2007 / Saturday
Bowling Tournament, SM Megamall Bowling Center
2 PM to 5 PM

September 29, 2007 / Saturday
CLOSING CEREMONIES & FELLOWSHIP
Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills Shopping Center

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, allow me to extend our invitation to the celebration of our 104th Foundation Day and the 50th National Medicine Week,

This year's theme "Nagkakaisang Manggagamot Tungo Sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan" reflects the strong commitment of the 118 component societies, 8 specialty divisions, 62 specialty societies and 37 affiliate societies to deliver quality health care for all. Despite several problems encountered by the medical profession and other allied health professionals, the PMA strongly believes that the tiniest effort together with sincerity and dedication will go a long way.

The Organizing Committee has prepared a well rounded program to cater for both our members and the laymen as well. There will be a week-long celebration highlighted by the simultaneous Opening Ceremonies nationwide. There will also be Tree Planting, Singing Physicians' Contest, Senior Physicians' Night, Free Clinics, Lay Fora, Bowling Tournament and the Closing Ceremonies.

May our endeavors to improve the health status of the nation be part of the realization of having a better nation.

Mabuhay tayong lahat and I love you all!

JOSE ASA SABILI, M.D.
President

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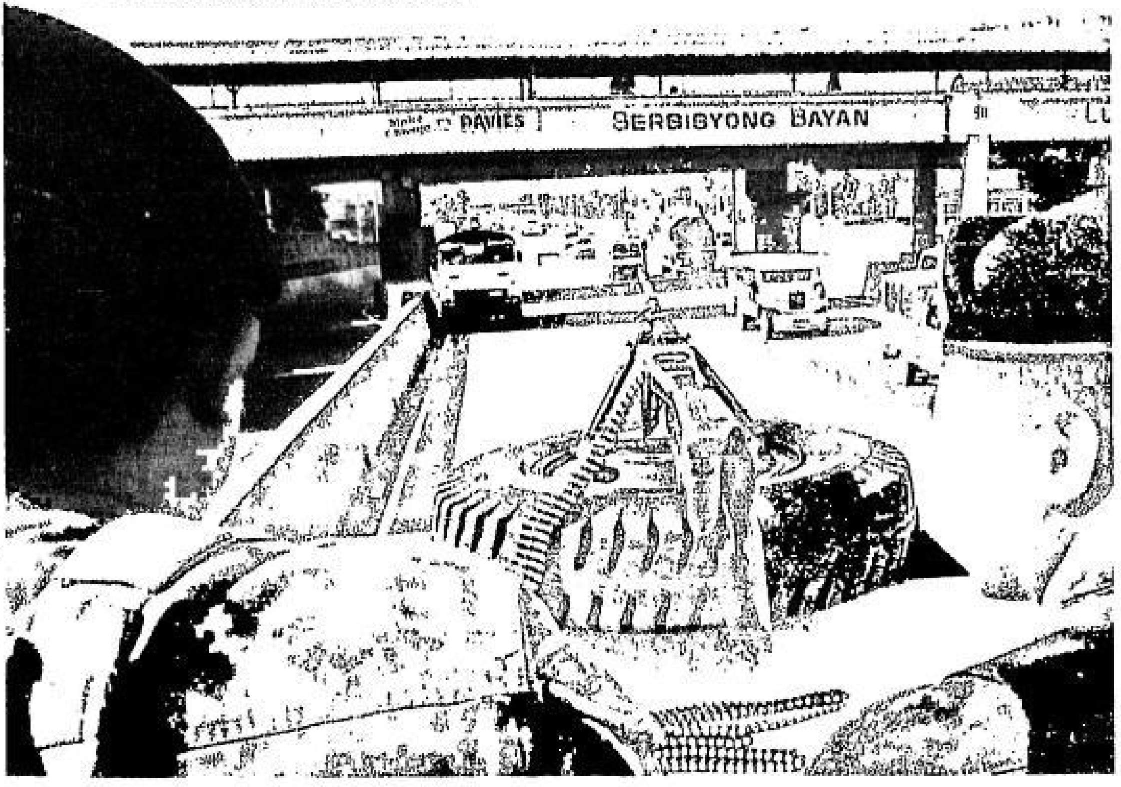
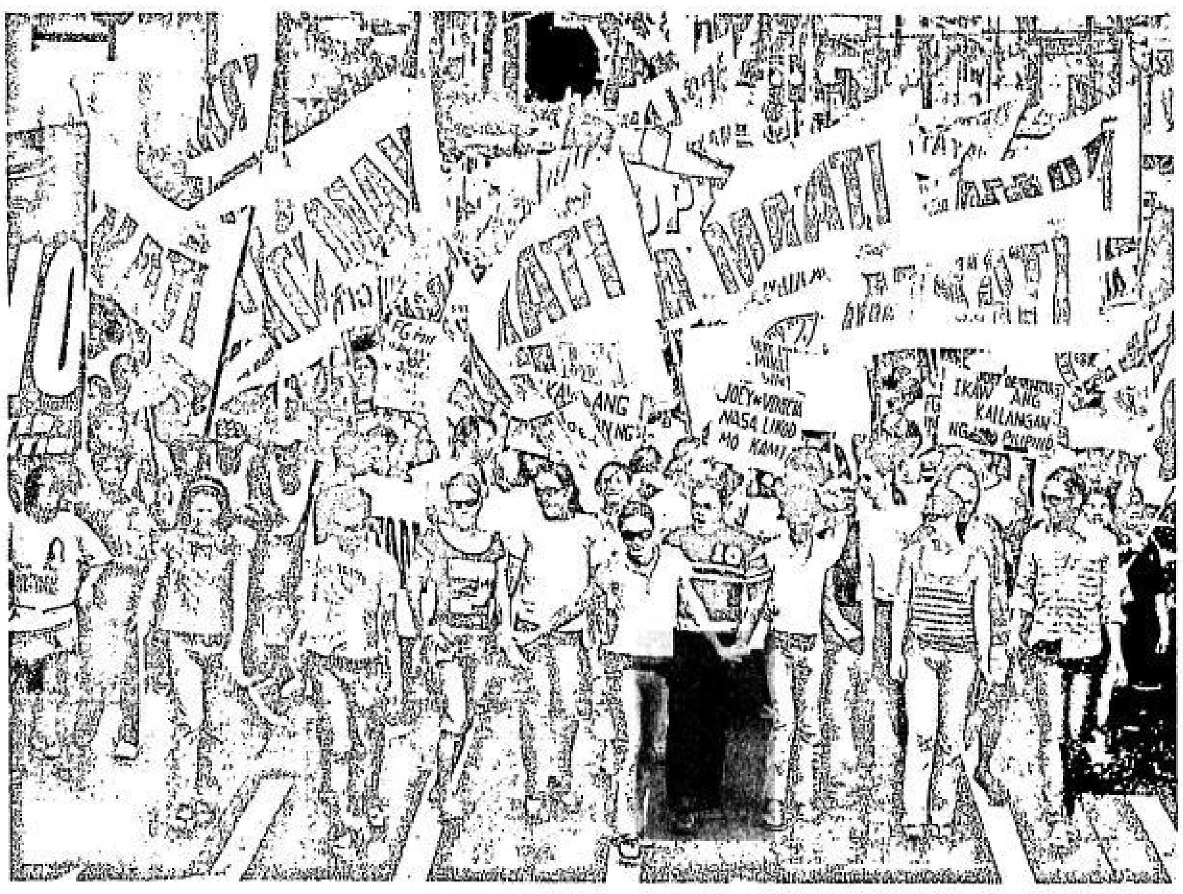


PREPAREDNESS: Members of the PNP Special Action Force (far left) keep close watch on the comings and goings on the stretch of the Balintawak-North Luzon Expressway.

EDWIN BACASMAS



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RP's new ...

From page A1

The crop improvement division of BSU's Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC) is primarily responsible for the propagation of the potato varieties.

The division said farmers could tap the business promise of the new varieties because they are high-yielding, disease-resistant and have a highly acceptable "chipping quality."

A center's study, "The Varietal Evaluation of Potatoes and Sweet Potato Varieties for the Highlands," confirmed the dry matter content of the varieties to be more than 18 percent.

Dry matter content is what makes potatoes crispy and sturdy when prepared as fries.

Lingkod Bayan award

The study, which also endorsed the planting of Bengueta and Haponita—which are sweet potato or camote varieties—brought honor to the root crops center as one of the Civil Service Commission's Lingkod Bayan national group awardees.

The CSC recognized the study team, composed of seven professors, namely, Ines Gonzales, Cynthia Kiswa, Donita Simongo, Teresita Masangcay, Esther Botangen, Arthur Botangen and Fernando Balog-as, on Sept. 19 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The team also received a cash prize of P100,000.

Dr. Johnny Dati, center director, said "varietal evaluation" meant the selection of appropriate varieties suited for a particular planting area.

Dati said more than 100 potato clones were produced through cross-breeding for five years. The clones underwent a rigid selection process to determine the best varieties.

In the study, the team found that the use of the varieties increased the farmers' production and income by 25 percent.

But Dati said the production of the varieties still fell short of satisfying the demands of institutional buyers, food chains and high-end consumers, despite producing 26 tons of potatoes per hectare compared to the ordinary table potato.

"This is because we lacked plantation areas. We have the varieties for potato chips and fries but we could not produce them on a large scale to be able to compete with foreign suppliers of potatoes," he said.

Fast-food attention

According to Dati, there are companies in Manila that already patronize the new varieties to make potato chips.

"But we need to produce more to be able to get the attention of Jollibee or McDonald's," he said.

He added that fast-food giants could save a lot if they ordered a big chunk of their required supply for French fries from farmers who cultivated the new varieties.

According to Dati, Benguet is still the country's best farm for potatoes because of its temperate climate. The province has 10,964 ha of potato land with an annual average production of 97,834 tons a year.

However, Benguet's more than 7,000 potato farmers have yet to maximize planting the four new varieties as they got used to planting the granula variety, the common table potato raised as food and for trade in the wet market.

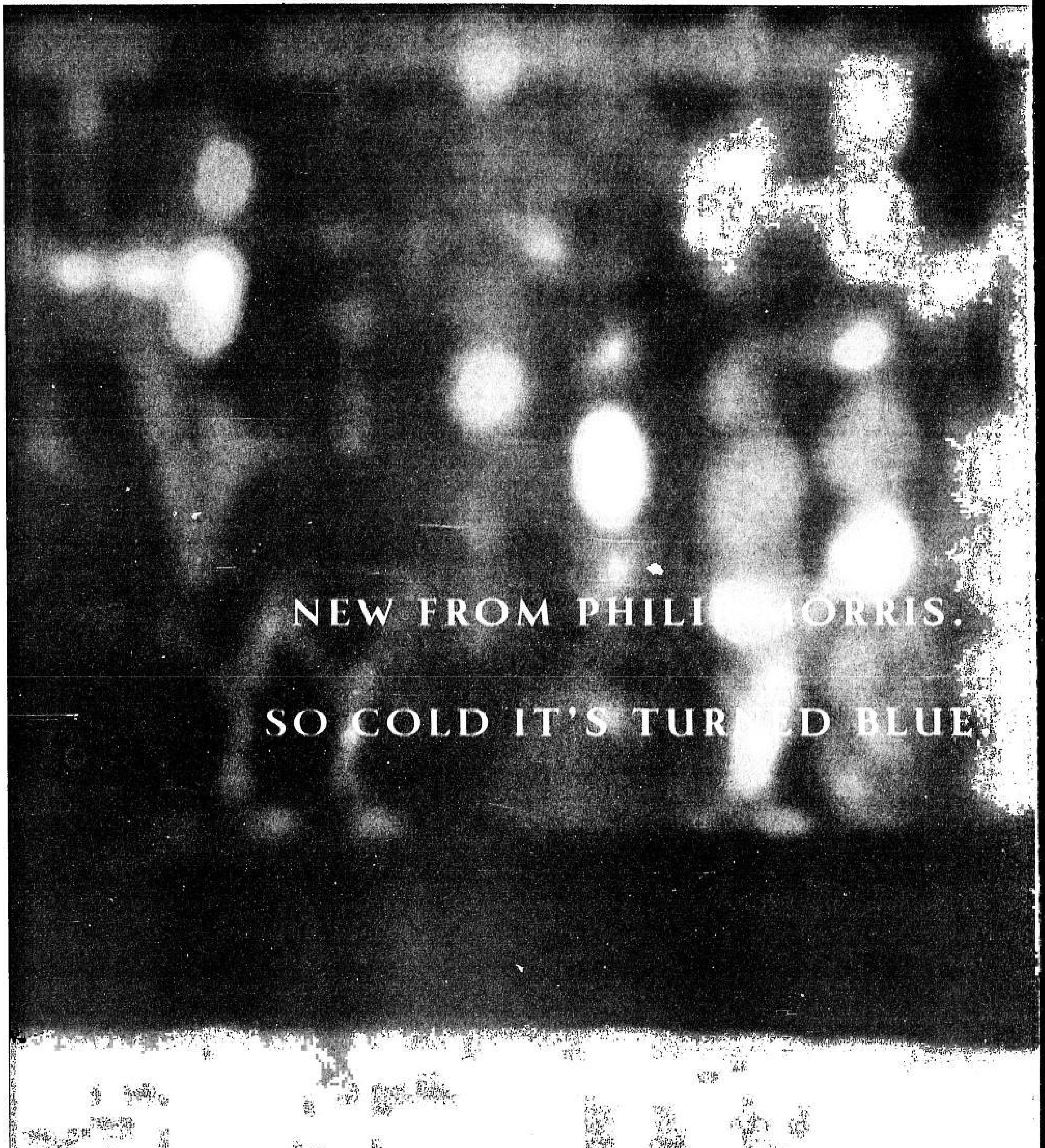
Dati said the Igorota variety alone suffered from lack of supply.

Based on earlier studies, 36.16 ha were planted to Igorota in the province's major potato-growing villages in 2004, he said.

"If this is to be compared to the requirements of one processor, at least 160 ha are needed," he said.

He said some traders tried contract growing with farmers for the cultivation of potato varieties good for processing. But the farmers often ended up competing with the traders' prices that ranged from P12 to P25 per kilo.

He cited a 2004 study which gave the following breakdown of potato purchases that year: Divisoria wholesalers (84,138 metric tons), food chain traders (10,762 metric tons), Balintawak wholesalers (2,446 metric tons), supermarkets, hotels and restaurants (489 metric tons).



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on martial law
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Friday.
GUIAO PUNZALAN

Erap may be home ...

From page A1

ganbayan antigraft court found Estrada guilty of collecting hundreds of millions of pesos in bribes from illegal gambling and insider trading and sentenced him to life in prison.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who is leading the negotiations for a pardon in behalf of the Arroyo administration, said he saw the "beginnings of an agreement."

"Erap is saying he will accept a pardon and the President already said that she is willing to extend a pardon, if asked," Puno told reporters at the 13th National Crime Prevention Week celebration in Malacañang.

He said the administration was "trying to find a way to help [Estrada] out of his predicament, that's what we're trying to focus on."

"I think the situation is ripe for a solution on this matter. I'm hoping that we can do it before Christmas," Puno said.

Estrada yesterday denied having talked with Puno or anyone from Malacañang regarding a presidential pardon or amnesty.

"I haven't heard of it. I haven't talked to him or to anyone of them. I talked to [National Security Adviser] Bert Gonzales before but we didn't discuss anything about a pardon," Estrada said in a phone interview.

He reiterated that "if ever" he accepts a pardon, it must be an "unconditional" one which should definitely not include an admission of guilt.

But if the terms of the pardon would be adverse to him, Estrada said he would rather exhaust all legal means to prove his innocence.

Asked if he would not like to spend Christmas out of detention, Estrada replied, "I have spent six Christmases in detention for six years so it doesn't really matter."

Not amnesty

Puno made clear, however, that Malacañang can only offer a pardon, not amnesty.

The former movie actor, the first President to be convicted of plunder, turned 70 last April, which makes him eligible for a presidential pardon.

"Amnesty is out of the question because amnesty requires legislative action ... A pardon is a prerogative of the President ... it can only be pardon," Puno said, adding that he planned to visit Estrada at his Tanay rest house where he is on house arrest, next week.

He said Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, had arranged a luncheon meeting with the convicted President yesterday but Puno could not make it because he was not feeling well.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, however, said that discussions concerning a pardon or amnesty for Estrada were in "an advanced stage."

He said Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, one of a handful of Catholic prelates closely identified with the disgraced former President, was leading the talks for the Estrada camp.

"The one at the forefront is Cardinal Vidal," De Venecia said, adding that Jose Pardo, Estrada's trade secretary, was also involved in the discussions, as were the Speaker, Gonzales and Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo was "supportive either way," that is, for a pardon or amnesty.

"She and I have been pushing for national reconciliation, peacemaking and national unification," he said.

Without the guilt

He said Estrada had expressed a preference for a pardon "but without the guilt."

But considering that a presidential pardon naturally required the admission of guilt, De Venecia said a "wide-ranging" amnesty might better suit Estrada, who insists he is innocent despite his conviction after a six-year trial.

De Venecia's original proposal of an "all-encompassing" amnesty was intended for all "enemies of the state" like communist insurgents and military adventurers.

Malacañang has so far come up only with an amnesty resolution covering communist insurgents. De Venecia said the House would tackle the resolution by next week and expect to have it approved before the October break.

Puno said pardon was the way to go to resolve the matter.

"I think the Filipino people have seen that justice has been done but also recognizes the position of the former President, and also his age and his health," he said.

He said this was something Ms Arroyo was "very aware of" and this was why he was certain "there will be some resolution to this thing very soon."

Partying with Estradas

"That's my hope, so I can join the Christmas party of the Estradas. They're always fun," Puno told reporters.

Puno said there were legal questions and discussions on how to go about granting the pardon.

"If there's a pardon that can be given even when [Estrada] has not exhausted all legal remedies, that is for the lawyers to determine but the willingness on the part of the administration is here," he said.

He said the ball was now in Estrada's court, "because the willingness [to grant the pardon] is here but it has to come to the official attention of the Palace."

Asked whether the Estrada camp has been asked to stop its attacks on the administration now that a presidential pardon was being worked out, Puno said the government did not mind criticism of its policies but it will not allow any extra-legal measures.

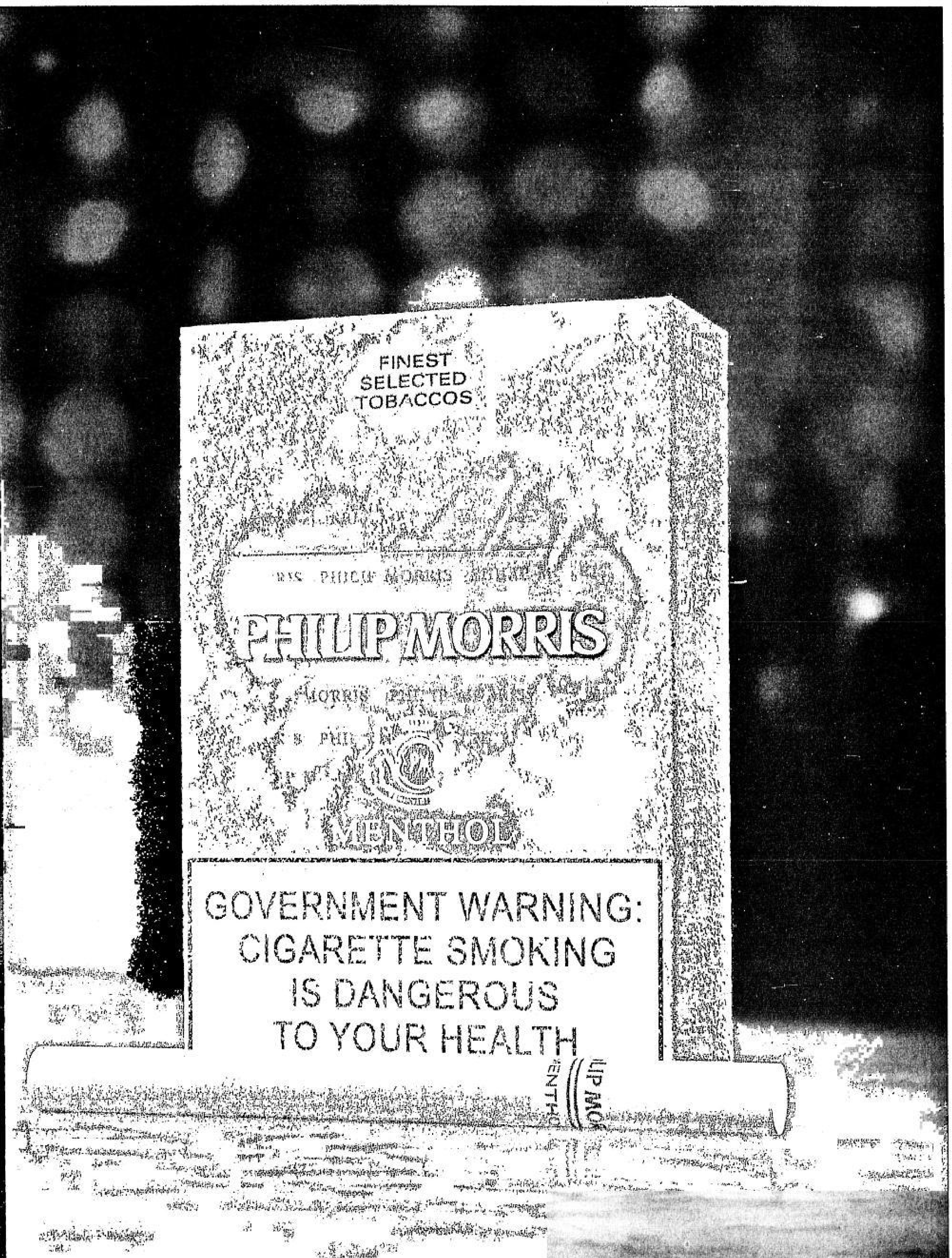
"If we are able to work toward a situation of pardon already, people will settle down, calm down and begin to work together for a better country," he said.

Puno also said they did not expect Estrada to "begin his first day [of freedom] by organizing a coup," as this was "not the personality" of the deposed leader.

In fact, Estrada had offered to help the government with the problem in Mindanao, according to Puno.

A group of lawyers who helped prepare the corruption case against Estrada issued a statement opposing a pardon or amnesty for Estrada, saying it would amount to a political accommodation.

"We are united in opposing in the strongest possible terms any grant of amnesty or pardon to anyone who has betrayed the public trust and who remains unrepentant," the lawyers said.



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Two innocent men?

EDITORIAL

FOR SOMEONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE JUST AN ORDINARY citizen (and whose activities should therefore be beyond public scrutiny, as he always said when he dragged journalists to court for libel), First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo obviously wields a lot of influence. This influence isn't just confined to the presidential bedroom, it extends to all the offices in the executive branch.

And it was on full display immediately after businessman Jose de Venecia III claimed that Arroyo had ordered him to withdraw his company's proposal to build a National Broadband Network at no cost to the government. The mere mention of Arroyo's name was all that was needed to make President Macapagal-Arroyo abandon the policy of silence on the NBN contract with the Chinese firm ZTE that brought the administration to the brink of a confrontation with the Senate and a constitutional crisis.

De Venecia, the son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, told a Senate committee hearing Tuesday that he had been invited to a "reconciliatory meeting" with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City some time in March this year by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza. De Venecia has accused Abalos of brokering the contract with ZTE and trying to bribe and later intimidate him into dropping his bid to establish the NBN. It was in that meeting, he said, that Arroyo pointed a finger at him and shouted, "Back off!" But De Venecia hastened to add that he was not implying that Arroyo was involved in any lobbying for the project or that President Macapagal-Arroyo knew anything about it. But that did not save him from a swift and savage counterattack from the President's family and from the President's men.

First, the President's only daughter, Evangeline "Luli" Arroyo, shed off her sweet image and bared a pugnacious side the public has come to associate with her mother. "I don't know if his old drug use affected his thinking," Evangeline said, adverting to a drug problem De Venecia had more than 20 years ago, which he has publicly acknowledged and has long overcome. Then, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol threatened to throw the book at De Venecia for violation of the anti-graft law. The President's allies in the House also began talking about a leadership shake-up aimed at stripping the older De Venecia of the speakership.

But nothing showed how seriously the administration viewed the gathering storm than the President's sudden reversal of the policy of silence. Last Tuesday, Mendoza and a few other executive officials snubbed the Senate invitation to appear at the hearing on the NBN deal. Instead, the President directed Mendoza to do his explaining before the Supreme Court "where there is no politics." Wednesday morning, Ms Arroyo dismissed the Senate investigations on the NBN deal as nothing more than "vaudeville acts that appeal to our worst fears." But later in the day, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that she had ordered the members of the Cabinet to join what she had earlier called a "political circus." Ermita said, "The President is trying to tell everybody that there is really nothing wrong with this issue and the administration is willing to reveal all that it knows about the contract."

But if that was the intention, the presence of almost the entire Cabinet at Thursday's hearing hardly cleared the air of the stink surrounding the ZTE contract. Mendoza and his subordinates could not offer any solid rationale for pushing the project and the contract with ZTE, as the senators had a field day puncturing holes in their arguments about the savings and other benefits the NBN is supposed to bring. Instead of revealing all that they know about the contract, Mendoza et al. only showed a fierce determination to protect some people, especially the First Gentleman and Abalos.

If Mendoza and his assistants are to be believed, Abalos was just an innocent bystander in the many meetings about the NBN project where his presence could not be denied, whether it was in China, in his Comelec office or at Wack Wack. As to Arroyo, what Mendoza recalled was that the President's husband just reminded the younger De Venecia in that Wack Wack encounter that he could be in violation of the law because of his relationship with the Speaker.

That reduced the issue to one of credibility, and unfortunately for Mendoza it's De Venecia that has the upper hand. So the question lingers, and it is the same one Arroyo's lawyer asked rhetorically in his defense: "Why will Mr. Arroyo try to intimidate De Venecia if the First Gentleman has nothing to do at all with the project?"

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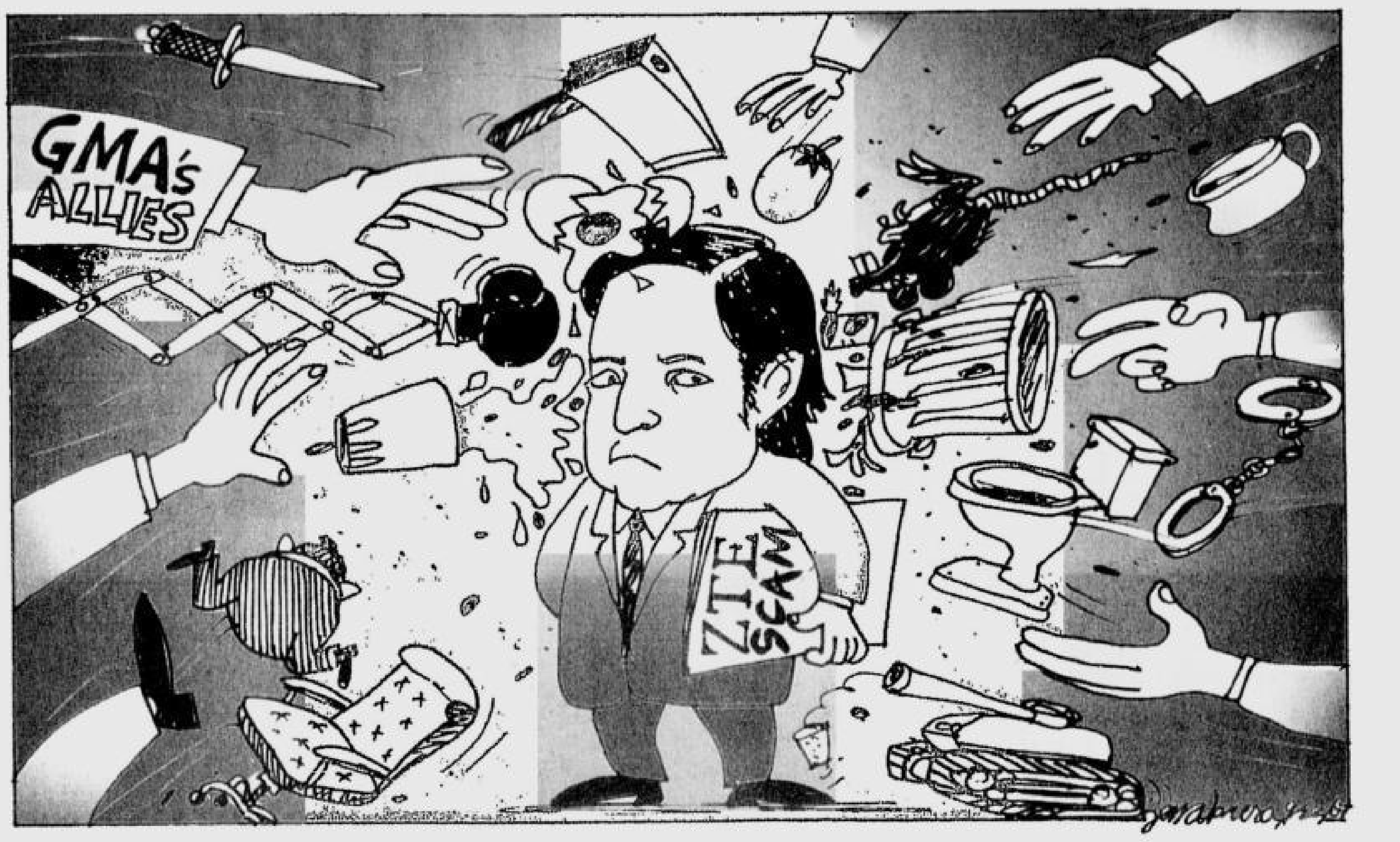


Martial law revisited

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, FERDINAND MARCOS invoked the emergency powers provided by the 1935 Constitution in order to seize control of the main levers of government. Presidential Decree 1081 ushered in a dictatorship that lasted almost 14 years. The events that unfolded on that fateful day in September 1972 were not entirely unexpected. People knew martial law was coming. The only question was how it was going to be carried out and how the nation would react to it.

I was 26, and had been back in the country only a few months. I left England, where I was a graduate student, to be with my wife and young son while I wrote the first draft of my dissertation. The news I was getting from the Philippines agitated me no end. The country looked headed toward a political upheaval. I asked myself what I was doing abroad, learning theory, at a time like this. Relative peace had returned to the groves of European academe after the impulse that drove the May 1968 student riots in Western Europe began to wane. In the face of a Right-wing public backlash, student activism in Europe retreated into the sober confines of seminar rooms. In an instant, the center of gravity of youth protest shifted to Asia, impelled by the issues thrown up by the Vietnam War and the rise of American-sponsored dictatorships all over the Third World. It was time to come home, I remember telling myself.

Student and faculty activism was in full swing in almost every major campus in the country when I got home in late July 1972. There was great political energy, and hopefulness was palpable in the air. Marcos was serving the last year of his second and final term as president, and everyone looked forward to his ignominious exit from power in 1973, if not sooner. His brazen effort to control the work of an ongoing Constitutional Convention so he could remain in power was bannered in all the newspapers. The growing protest in the streets was determined to stop him.

Bombs were being exploded in various parts of the metropolis. There were demonstrations in key cities, and they were getting noisier and more daring by the day. Charges of massive corruption in high places filled the media. Marcos was beginning to look like a cornered rat, and the country seemed to be moving inexorably toward a dramatic political transition. It all seemed so easy. I remember my late father-in-law, the historian and writer Renato Constantino, telling us that Marcos could be encouraging adventurism in the streets and perhaps even staging some of the bomb explosions himself to create a picture of widespread chaos and lawlessness, a perfect setting for the imposition of martial law.

That thought did cross our minds, but it could not override the promise of a political momentum threatening to sweep not only Marcos but the entire bankrupt social order. What we overlooked was the methodical way in which he had managed to secure the personal allegiance of the whole chain of command of the armed forces. Contrary to what we wanted to believe, Marcos was a forward-looking fox with a clear objective, who quietly marshaled the resources he needed to be able to mount a coup against the very constitution from which he drew his emergency powers.

As succeeding events would show, Marcos correctly read the public pulse. The lightning arrest of his political enemies and critics failed to spark public protest. The massive deployment of the military in the streets forced activists to lie low or go underground. The padlocking of Congress went unlamented. The rest of the country quietly cheered the swift restoration of public order and the imposition of restrictions on civil liberties in the name of national discipline.

Marcos invoked emergency powers ostensibly to ensure public safety and to protect the Republic against a rebellion that supposedly had been mounted by rightist and leftist forces. But the emergency became, under the Marcos-crafted 1973 Constitution, the regular mode of governance.

It is amazing how the Supreme Court resorted to a novel mode of legal reasoning in order to weave a coherent justification for continuing martial law powers long after the emergency had passed. Here is the Court in Aquino Jr. vs Comelec (1975): "We affirm the proposition that as Commander-in-Chief and enforcer or administrator of martial law, the incumbent President of the Philippines can promulgate proclamations, orders, and decrees during the period of Martial Law essential to the security and preservation of the Republic, to the defense of the political and social liberties of the people and to the institution of reforms to prevent the resurgence of rebellion or insurrection or secession or the threat thereof as well as to meet the impact of a world-wide recession, inflation, or economic crisis which presently threatens all nations including highly developed countries."

Now we know that a "state of rebellion" can easily be concocted. In February 2006, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tried to pull a fast one on the nation when she declared a "state of national emergency," claiming the existence of lawless violence, and asserting the same set of powers that Marcos exercised under PD 1081. The Supreme Court struck down the main parts of Ms Arroyo's Proclamation 1017. But we may not be so lucky next time.

Present circumstances bear an uncanny similarity to those that attended the imposition of martial law in 1972. The only protection there is against the return of dictatorship in all its forms is a vigilant public that keeps a strategic view of things and chooses its weapons well.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Ring of truth

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE ALLIES OF THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION probably realized that they couldn't win on the issues, so they are attacking the person, and creating a negative image, the infamous ad hominem strategy. They are throwing everything they can at Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, casting him in the role of drug abuser, business adventurer cum scam artist, name-dropping son using his father's position, not to mention liar.

And the strategy is not aimed only at Joey. It's a scorched-earth campaign, encompassing anyone and everyone who has criticized the broadband project. But the administration officials descended to the absolute pits when, through Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, they tried to impugn the character and motives of two of my most respected colleagues, Raul Fabella and Noel de Dios. Using what she called "raw" information, she nevertheless asserted that the paper they wrote (which opposed the government broadband project as well as any other project that would involve setting up a third information highway—so that would include Joey's project as well as the American proposal) was financed by AGILE, a US-AID project created to provide technical assistance to Philippine government agencies in the area of economic policy reforms. To give the reader an idea of how "raw" Santiago's information is: AGILE ended on June 30, 2004—more than three years ago. The government must be in so desperate a situation that it is clutching at straws.

It is well to remind ourselves that in all cases, the relevant question is not who makes the argument, but whether the argument is valid. That hasn't been answered yet.

In Joey's case, he claims: (a) that the contract with ZTE is grossly overpriced—to the tune of something like $200 million or close to P10 billion and (b) that Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was both briber and bribee.

One would think that the overpricing charge would be easy enough for the government to disprove—after all, it could not have come up with a total project cost of $329 million without summing up the cost of all the materials, equipment and services that the project specifies. And these data should be part of the contract, which is why everyone has been asking for a copy of that document.

Unfortunately, the Department of Transportation and Communications has been playing cutesy, so that up to this point—notwithstanding the great show of providing the Senate with a copy of the contract—no one knows what those figures are. Why? Because the document supplied are greatly incomplete: it does not contain the annexes alluded to in the body of the contract, which annexes contain all the vital information needed. What a sham. Certainly, the DOTC provided me a copy of the contract, as Leandro Mendoza stated in the hearings. What he did not say was that the copy was useless to me, because of the absence of the technical and financial information. He assumes we are all idiots, or he is confident that he is untouchable, so he can make fools of all of us.

In any case, the question is: Why is the DOTC so loath to provide the information that could settle the issue once and for all? It must be because that information cannot stand scrutiny.

The bribery charge is much more difficult to prove—it is a Joey-says-Abalos-says situation—but it is not impossible. And the Erap conviction should act as an impetus in the battle against corruption. There is always the lifestyle check that can be performed on Abalos and his close relatives—after all, Abalos has been in government service since 1986—and we all know what government employees are paid, so one could compare his lifestyle to his income. A close scrutiny of his yearly Statement of Assets and Liabilities may also yield results. Why the Arroyo administration (or the Ombudsman) hasn't done this, at least ever since the Supreme Court decision on the Mega-Pacific deal, is anybody's guess.

I'll take Joey's word anytime over that of Abalos. And I will take Joey's word over that of Leandro Mendoza and the DOTC. Why?

First, I am witness to Abalos' telling a barefaced lie (when he was MMDA chair), and we all know that the Supreme Court and the Senate blue ribbon committee hold him in the lowest esteem. In this case, he has been shown to have lied about going to China and talking to the ZTE people

Second, Mendoza has been less than forthcoming about the project proposal figures, other than to say that it is legal and went through all the processes. Then his claim that Abalos never mentioned the ZTE project to him—even as they are supposed to be golfing buddies and Abalos himself already admitted that he was a golfing guest of ZTE in China—is incredible. As is his claim that the meeting in Wack Wack alluded to by Joey was merely a "chance" encounter between Joey, Abalos, Mendoza and the First Gentleman. No ring of truth—too few details, too much dodging.

As for Joey, the only time I met and talked with him was 16 years ago when I shook his hand and murmured, "Congratulations." But (a) his story has the ring of truth; and (b) he had nothing to gain and everything to lose by coming out with this story; he has even said that he is no longer interested in getting the project. I have it from the most unimpeachable sources that his father was trying mightily to dissuade him from coming out—until Joey asked him point blank: Pop, do you really want me to stand aside while the Filipino people are robbed of $200 million?

That's the bottom-line question—for both the President and the Senate.

Measuring pain

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

SOCIAL SURVEYS CAN BE USED, AND ARE BEing used, for direct measurement of social wellbeing and ill-being. They can, and do, measure happiness and distress, contentment and deprivation, pleasure and pain.

It is but right that development goals, everywhere, focus more on reducing distress, deprivation and pain than on increasing happiness, contentment and pleasure. Social surveys should do likewise.

The MDGs. In particular, three of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that all 189 United Nations member-states have pledged to achieve by 2015 are phrased as reductions of pain: "1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; .... 4. Reduce child mortality; .... 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases."

Surveys can track progress on these goals by directly asking questions about pain. Experience shows that people can answer credibly, can distinguish types of pain, and can report about the frequency or degrees of pain that they have experienced.

Crime victimization. Last Monday, SWS reported its June 2007 survey results on one type of pain, victimization by common crime. This is based on families in the quarterly survey who were burglarized, pickpocketed, robbed of a motor vehicle, or hurt by violence in the last six months.

The Philippine National Police countered that the rate of "blottered" crimes has fallen. Of course, the PNP does not claim that unreported crimes never happened, as neither does the Department of Health claim that the only sick people are those who seek treatment at government health centers.

Hunger. MDG No. 1 has two sub-goals, measured against the year 1990: (a) Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day; and (b) Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Last Tuesday, at the Philippine Statistical Association's annual conference on the theme of hunger measurement, I advocated a direct surveying of hunger, a physical pain suffered due to involuntary lack of food.

My first reason is that I believe that direct measurement of a concept is intrinsically superior to indirect measurement. My second, and more important, reason is that direct national surveys of hunger are easily done, as often as quarterly, at an affordable cost.

The current awareness of the seriousness of hunger is due to the regular quarterly reporting of hunger by SWS since 1998, from samples of 1,200 households, which meet international standards for national surveys. The last State of the Nation Address was pleased to see some relief in hunger (15 percent in June 2007 versus 19 percent in February 2007). The September 2007 SWS figure on hunger will be released soon.

In 2003, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute surveyed hunger directly, and credibly, by asking: "Were you/your children ever hungry because there was no food or no money to buy food?" I think that was the only time FNRI measured hunger directly, as of now. It is of little relevance now, since the SWS time-series shows that 2003 had the **lowest** level of hunger in the past nine years. The next FNRI direct survey of hunger is not yet scheduled.

In August 2006, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics did a one-time trial of the SWS direct approach, with a large sample of 12,857 households, and obtained 19 percent as the national incidence of hunger.

Slowness is not the only problem with the orthodox measures of food adequacy. At the conference, PSA president Isidoro David showed, from 2003 government surveys, that classifying families by the official Food Poverty Line (the cost of a minimum-energy food diet) is only 50 percent correct in identifying families that actually obtain the minimum-energy in the food they consume. "That's no better than tossing a coin," he said.

To this, National Statistical Coordination Board head Romulo Virola replied that NSCB does not guarantee that families with purchasing power at the Food Poverty Line actually consume a minimum amount of food. [Indeed, they cannot, as soon as they spend a single centavo on any non-food item!]

Actually, SWS also measures Food Poverty directly, every quarter, based on household heads' classification of their food as Poor (**mahirap**), Not Poor, or Borderline. Respondents do this without stating what or how much food they consume. In June 2007, Self-Rated Food Poverty was 37 percent, and Hunger was 15 percent, i.e., quite a few say that they suffer food-poverty, but not hunger.

In general, one should avoid forcing existing statistical data to proxy for a different, even though related, concept. It is better to develop practical means to generate new data directly applicable to the relevant concept.

Neither should Filipino scientists be distracted by the statistical desiderata of international organizations. Let us measure hunger in our own way. It is more important to reduce Philippine hunger over time—hence my call for **timely** statistics—than to let it compete in an international hunger contest.

In looking for scientific solutions to a social problem, there are still no substitutes for sincerity and courage. The SWS surveys show a great decline in hunger during 2001-2003, and then a great increase during 2004-2007. These episodes should be studied to determine what went right at first, and what went wrong later. Why are no research institutes doing so? Is hunger not important enough? Or are they afraid of what they may find?

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Uncomfortable truths

COMMENTARY

Ramon R. Del Rosario Jr.

WIKIPEDIA DEFINES CORPORATE SOCIAL REsponsibility (CSR) as a concept which suggests that organizations, especially business organizations, have an obligation to consider the interests of customers, employees, shareholders, communities, and the ecology in all aspects of their operation.

I have four propositions to expand on this definition.

First, CSR is ultimately about citizenship. It is about being part of this society and caring about our people's development.

Second, our citizenship demands that we make doing good integral to our daily lives and work.

Third, it also demands that we go beyond projects and programs and strive to transform the very structures that hinder development.

Finally, good citizenship requires that we adopt a position and take a stand on the important questions of the day, regardless of the risks to our selves and our organizations.

CSR, especially in developing countries, must go beyond setting up foundations, giving scholarships, planting trees, or treating customers and employees well.

CSR in a country like ours cannot just be auxiliary, relegated to a department, or assigned to a retiring executive; it must be part of who or what companies are, it must be fundamental. It cannot just be about doing good work; it must also be about making all our work do good.

Because it is about citizenship, all our organizations—businesses, media, civic groups, and yes, schools—not just NGOs and foundations, are obligated to practice CSR. We might as well call it Organizational Social Responsibility (OSR), so as not to limit its practice to companies. Neither is "OSR" only within the purview of large organizations. We are all being asked to practice good citizenship, big, small, for profit or non-profit, rich or poor.

So, what does good citizenship demand in the Philippines?

We are beset with some very basic problems—hunger and housing shortage, infant and child mortality, poverty-related diseases, inequities and joblessness, miseducation and undereducation, environment degradation, among others. Approximately 24 out of 100 families do not earn enough to satisfy their basic needs.

In the light of so much suffering, our citizenship requires that we act to address these problems, through the roles we play and the jobs we do. OSR demands that our missions and strategies be targeted toward improving the lives of our people.

Making businesses out of good works is what CK Pralahad, author of "Fortunes at the Bottom of the Pyramid," precisely proposes. Serving the poor—not as a cause or an act of charity—is often a successful business strategy and an effective solution to poverty.

However, our citizenship and social responsibility require still more of our respective organizations. This is precisely why a number of very concerned chief executive officers have organized the Philippine Business for Education, or PBEd.

Our goal is clear: to advocate policy and institutional reforms needed to make the Philippine education system effective and efficient, universal and inclusive. Our youth need the best opportunities possible to improve the quality of their lives. For this to happen, the entire education system must be reformed.

The present state of our education system faces a crisis of national proportions. I submit that it is the crisis of our age. Private education institutions, business and the government must work together to resolve it.

Many offered solutions to the continuing decline of the education system can be difficult, or even unpopular. For instance, the PBEd recommends increasing the number of years for basic education to 12; moving from a credential-based to a competency-based system for hiring and promoting teachers; and raising the budget for education.

From this perspective, we need to closely examine the Department of Education's proposed Cyber Education Program. CyberEd provides for a private and wide area network to beam education content to schools via satellite technology. It claims to improve teacher-training through remote broadcast, and to strengthen overall management of the system by laying down an intranet. The infrastructure is to be laid out over a five-year period and will include satellite communications, a trainer's studio, school studios and multi-media classrooms.

CyberEd seems reasonable, until one considers its cost—P26 billion—over five years. Eighty-six percent of that, or P23 billion, will come from a soft loan from China. Such a huge amount seems luxurious in a system of leaking roofs and shortages in classroom, chairs, teachers and textbooks. As a matter of fact, studies estimate that these resource gaps can be addressed with P22 billion only.

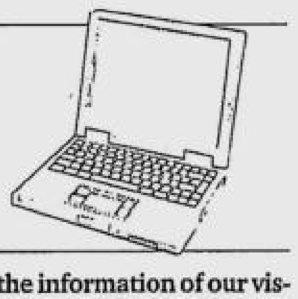
Shouldn't we instead spend the borrowed money on more fundamental priorities? PBEd and the Foundation for World Wide People Power have called for the government to do precisely that: put the financial resources where public education needs them more and where they can make a greater difference.

Institutions of higher learning—traditional bastions of critical analysis and the search for truth—must contribute to the debate on the Cyber Education Program. This is what our citizenship demands of us.

Excerpts from remarks recently given by Ramon del Rosario Jr., chair of Philippine Business for Education, at the 2007 CEAP National Convention.

Lean Alejandro's 'precioussss' secret

BETWEEN DEADLINES



EXTRA! EXTRACURRICULAR! A SEX VIDEO PURportedly featuring a top government official and a top-level aide is the object of a search and retrieve operation by the official's security people. Any tip or rumor about the tape surfacing anywhere in the country sends the security people scrambling to get hold of the explosive material. It has been a futile search, thus far.

An INQUIRER source, however, swore to having seen a sex video titled "Balbon" allegedly featuring the top official and a former government official from the South (no, not the aide mentioned earlier). The source promised a special screening for the INQUIRER three years ago. So far, it has remained a promise.

What was shown to this reporter was a black and white photocopy of a picture showing the top official with yet another former government official in what seems to be, um, a very cozy, domesticated situation. They were wearing house robes, apparently having breakfast like a married couple. They are married, of course, but not to each other. *F. Zamora*

* * *

WILL THE LAST ONE OUT TURN OFF THE lights? Many senators are notorious for slipping out of the session hall as soon as the roll call is made. So on most plenary sessions, the Senate president, the president pro tempore, the majority and minority leaders and one or two senators are the only ones left to listen to the first reading of bills and resolutions.

This was the scene that high school students in the gallery witnessed one Monday this month. A few minutes after the session started, only five senators were left in the session hall: Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada (who took over after Senate President Manuel Villar made a quick exit), Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Benigno Aquino III and Panfilo Lacson.

Apparently embarrassed by his colleagues' behavior, Pimentel assured the young visitors that their public officials were not in fact remiss in their jobs. "Just for the information of our visitors in the gallery, this particular phase of the Senate's work does not involve actual debating because this is just the first step in law-making," he said. "We just want to make sure the kids understand what is going on," he added. ***D. Pazzibugan***

* * *

LEGAL PUZZLE. During the Sept. 20 hearing at the Court of Appeals on the petition for habeas corpus of missing activist Jonas Burgos, a government lawyer went beyond the call of duty to take up the cudgels for an adverse witness of the opposing party, the Burgos family.

When the family's lawyer, Ricardo Fernandez, requested the court to issue a show cause order for witness Supt. Jonnel Estomo to explain why he should not be reprimanded for failing to submit certain documents, Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang argued that the court should give Estomo a little more time to submit the reports.

Estomo, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of Camp Karingal, had earlier testified that he did not consider the three military officers whose names cropped up after the disappearance came to light as suspects in the case.

He also said he focused his investigation on the owner of the vehicle to which the controversial license plate number seen by witnesses during Jonas' abduction was originally registered. The said vehicle had been impounded by the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion.

Tang's comment prompted Fernandez to respond: "I'm a bit surprised the OSG [Office of the Solicitor General] is representing our witness."

But Tang said she made the comment to be fair to Estomo, who was not present at the said hearing.

Tang pointed out that the OSG represents the Philippine National Police. Not in this case, Fernandez replied, since Estomo is not a respondent, adding that the respondent in the case was in fact PNP Chief Director General Oscar Calderon.

Besides, Fernandez said, he was asking only for a show cause order and not a contempt citation against the police superintendent, and said he had good reasons in asking for the order. *L. Salaverria*

* * *

FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING. Now it can be told, and by the widow of the celebrated youth activist Lean Alejandro herself. Lidy Nacpil proudly disclosed to the INQUIRER that it was she who introduced him to the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Alejandro, who was murdered by unidentified men on Sept. 19 exactly 20 years ago, was a known Tolkien buff and had been popular for relating certain plots of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy to the state of society under the martial law regime.

"I introduced him to the 'Lord of the Rings.' But he didn't tell his friends that he got it from me. Macho *kasi*," said the feminist firebrand, chuckling at the memory of her husband. Nacpil is one of the founders of the militant feminist group Gabriela. *J. Uy*

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Aug. 16, 1991 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

The word is out from [Hong Kong] that Kris Aquino was a bigger hit than kung-fu superstar Raymond Wong in their first co-starrer "Magic to Win 5." On premiere night last week in the Crown Colony, Chinese fans followed her around like lapdogs. In her fuchsia gown by Inno Sotto, Kris did look like a fragile princess from a Chinese fairy tale. Robin P. would have drooled but it was actor-director Rowell Santiago who was her Palace-anointed escort to the [premiere] of the presidential pet's first international film.

Fruit of life

YOUNG BLOOD

Raul C. Barroga

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

A YEAR OLDER OR A YEAR WISER?

This is the question that flashes in my mind whenever I get to celebrate my birthday every 21st of August. I can never forget this seemingly simple, yet philosophical, question though it has been five years since it stung me.

My best friend had written the thought-provoking question on a greeting card he had made out of an old *cartolina*. On the front and back covers of the card he had sketched a flock of seagulls flying over the sea.

Honestly, I didn't get the message immediately. But as I was about to sleep that night, I opened the card again and realized that my best friend wanted to greet me and, at the same time, remind me to take a pause and take stock of my life.

It stuck me deep in self-examination. Was I getting older and wiser, or was I simply getting older? After retrospection and introspection, I couldn't help but smile and text my friend: "BOTH." Yes, in capital letters.

He texted me back, asking, "What both?" He himself seemed to have forgotten the question in the card he sent me. I explained to him.

"Ah, yeah, OK, I got it," he texted me with his usual "smileys" in lieu of the exclamation points.

As much as I could, I keep my birthday a secret, except to my immediate family and relatives. Simply because my birthdays have not been as happy as I would imagine or want them to be. I grew up celebrating birthdays without the lavish *handa* and their usual complements of cakes and balloons.

My father died when I was barely 6 years old, thus, our family was very poor; treating our neighbors and friends to parties was tantamount to doing penance; in other words, it was simply beyond our reach. Besides, I was born in August, the middle or the leanest of the lean months (*gawat* in local language) especially for us, farming barrio folks. It is the month of *taghirap* as farmers wait for their *palay* to bear fruit. So I learned to be content with just praying and thanking God for my birthday and with wishing myself (and hoping for) more years to come.

As I was about to turn 27, my creatively cunning best friend greeted me again in advance, but this time through text, not with his water colors and brush: "Now at 27, what?"

Again, I got stung by his question. It made me ask myself again about what significant things I have done in life and what I have made out of my life at this point. It was like asking me: if I were a coconut tree, have I borne fruits? If so, how many? How delicious and for how much?

Well, at 27 I can safely and proudly say (not to carry my own chair, though) that my life hasn't been fruitless. I have been teaching for the last seven years. And I would like to think that I've been helping mold the minds of future leaders. Many of my students are now in college and some of them are already working, earning much higher than what I make as a public high school teacher. Besides, I've been a friend to poor, and sometimes misguided, students who badly needed guidance. That's one fruit more than enough to warm my heart whenever I feel exhausted and crestfallen.

Also, as I've been declaring in my annual statement of assets and liabilities (a requirement for government employees), I have now a house to call my own, albeit a humble home and built "by installments," and furnished with the simple amenities of modern living like a restroom, TV set, stereo component, washing machine, gas stove, refrigerator, and wooden and bamboo chairs.

I've also bought two motorcycles, two bicycles, four cell phones (not the N-series of Nokia, though) and several sets of presentable teaching uniforms, shoes and pants. Being an avid fan of great sportsmen, I've collected (through 50-percent discount promos or from *ukay-ukay* stores in Baguio City) branded sports apparel like those that carry the much-coveted swoosh of Nike and the three stripes of Adidas.

But more than these "fruits," I've found true friends who have stood by me through thick and thin. And I've got no enemies. And I would like to think I have the respect of my community. These "fruits" make me feel at peace with myself and with the simple village where I live.

But most of all, there are my health and my spiritual life—which I consider my "best" fruits. I'm thankful that I don't easily get sick though I also work, during weekends, in the farm come scorching sun or torrential rains. And that I go to church almost every Sunday. I don't take hard drinks, neither do I smoke. And I don't gamble.

My most precious fruits, of course, are: my beautiful and supportive wife who has been the wind beneath my wings; and my son who, at 2 and a half years old, looks like me and promises to be a bright child. No amount of money can ever pay my feelings every time I hear him say "take care" when I leave our house for school in the morning. My tired body and mind also feel refreshed when I arrive home at 6 p.m. when he volunteers to untie my shoelaces and asks if I'd like to have coffee which he knows is my wont upon arriving home.

I feel extremely happy every time I play with him at night while in bed and watching TV programs. He says he wants to become a policeman someday so he can arrest those bad policemen. He giggles and laughs very loud when I kiss his neck with my beard.

Of course, I've got liabilities, too. My wife doesn't know that I'm receiving now just half of my monthly salary because many lending institutions are getting their "fair share" (actually, lion's share) from my payroll. But although I've got those loans and other liabilities, although I don't know where to get rice for tomorrow that will last us till the next pay day, (which is actually a natural phenomenon for struggling breadwinners like me) nothing can stop me from pushing on, especially now that I have my son who brings me a smile when the going gets tough, and who gives me hope when the problems seem insurmountable.

Raul C. Barroga, 27, teaches English subjects in San Pedro High School Moncada, Tarlac while serving as school paper adviser. He is presently studying at the Graduate School of Pangasinan State University, Urdaneta City for his master's degree in Communication Arts-English.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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China loans cast Marcos shadow

THE $1.6-BILLION LOAN FACILITY from China contemplated by the Arroyo administration (to finance the ZTE-NBN project, DepEd's Cyber Education project and the NorthRail) is reminiscent of the gargantuan loans Marcos obtained in the 1970s.

To this day we bear the burden of paying the Marcos loans that were invested in graft-ridden projects, seemingly undertaken for the purpose of giving cronies the opportunity to rake in corruption money. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's underlings cannot even be original in their methods of looting the public coffers; worse still are the clumsy methods employed such that, very early in the game, they are caught red-handed.

If the political opposition and the public cannot stop the Department of Transportation and Communications' deal with China's ZTE, the next generation of Filipinos will pay for our lack of resolute action to stop the looting of the public coffers now. The cycle will continue ad infinitum. Crooks of our generation will continue to breed their kind who will carry on the dastardly trade of their parents and mentors.

In recent pronouncements, GMA has indicated her intention to rival in extent and value the infrastructure constructed by Marcos. With the anomalous transactions we have seen in the last six years of GMA's rule, we can expect that she will approximate the Marcos administration's record of looting public funds.

The Filipino people desperately need a mechanism to liberate itself from the culture of corruption that grips the body politic. Unfortunately, the sectors that collectively have the means to lead in the awesome task linger in their comfort zones, content in their lot, hesitant to compromise their niche in the present scheme of things despite its evident flaws.

—E. P. DAKANAY JR.,
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Let justice be

AMNESTY IS GRANTED BY THE government for a political offense. Plunder is a different case. While it may be good to grant pardon to someone as old as former President Joseph Estrada, it is not right to bend the law in a crime that has always haunted our country.

Erap's conviction was proof that we are capable of bringing justice no matter how long it would take and no matter how big the involved persons are. It sent a compelling message to the whole world that in the Philippines, no one is above the law.

Granting special privileges to a convicted former president is all right, but suggesting amnesty may be well too much. Justice has already been served. Let us not try to undo it.

—IVY MALLARI,
innoprint@skyinet.net

It's more like 'Sydney distraction'

WE AGREE WITH THE EDITORIAL (INQUIRER, 9/10/07) that the Sydney declaration is neither a breakthrough nor a milestone in the global effort to save the environment.

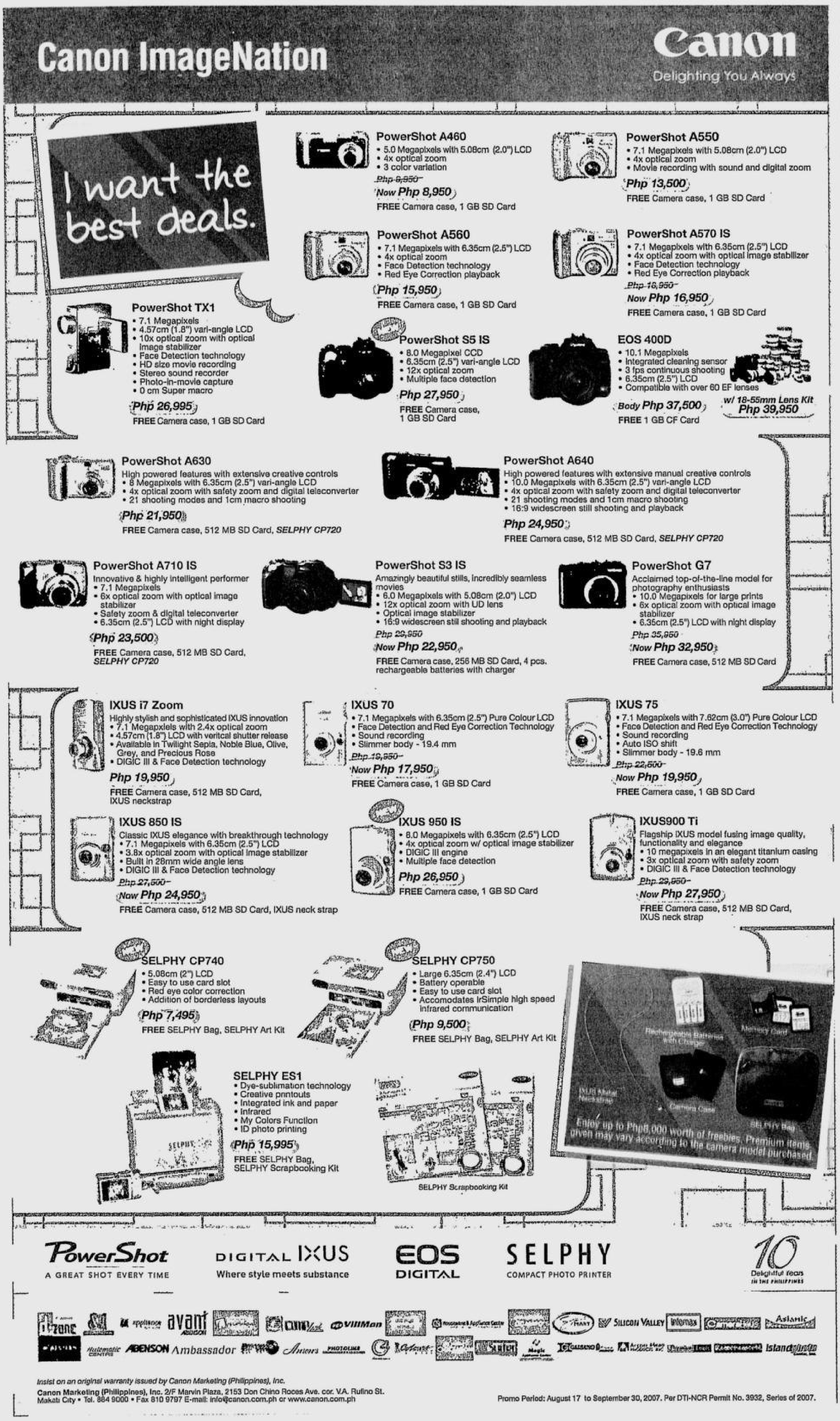
However, we completely disagree that it is a step forward. On the contrary, the declaration is nothing more than a distraction concocted by countries who refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol, namely the United States and Australia; as well as by countries who are likely to miss their "emission reduction targets" under the Kyoto Protocol (Japan and Canada).

The aspirational 25 percent by 2030 target improvement in the Apec countries' energy intensity is in fact, merely a business as usual approach. To cite as an example: the United States alone has improved its energy intensity from 1980 to 2004 by 38.47 percent, China by 61.42 percent, Canada by 27.68 percent. These numbers also show that improving energy intensity does not necessarily mean emission reductions.

We shouldn't also forget that the original and primary intention of this declaration is to derail the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol—which is precisely why the masterminds of this meaningless new agreement are the countries which until now refuse to sign on to Kyoto. While the Kyoto Protocol certainly needs a lot of work particularly for the second round of negotiations for new emission reductions after 2012, it is still the only real and binding treaty that seeks to solve climate change.

We don't need the Sydney distraction. If the United States and Australia seriously want to address climate change, all they have to do is to uncap their pens and sign the Kyoto Protocol.

—JASPER INVENTOR,
climate and energy campaigner,
Greenpeace Southeast Asia,
24 KJ corner K7 Streets,
Kamias, Quezon City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- 7.1 Megapixels with 6.35cm (2.5") LCD
- 4x optical zoom with optical image stabilizer
- Face Detection technology
- Red Eye Correction playback

~~Php 18,950~~
Now Php 16,950
FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

PowerShot TX1
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 4.57cm (1.8") vari-angle LCD
- 10x optical zoom with optical image stabilizer
- Face Detection technology
- HD size movie recording
- Stereo sound recorder
- Photo-in-movie capture
- 0 cm Super macro

Php 26,995
FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

PowerShot S5 IS
- 8.0 Megapixel CCD
- 6.35cm (2.5") vari-angle LCD
- 12x optical zoom
- Multiple face detection

Php 27,950
FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

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- 10.1 Megapixels
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FREE 1 GB CF Card

PowerShot A630
High powered features with extensive creative controls
- 8 Megapixels with 6.35cm (2.5") vari-angle LCD
- 4x optical zoom with safety zoom and digital teleconverter
- 21 shooting modes and 1cm macro shooting

Php 21,950
FREE Camera case, 512 MB SD Card, *SELPHY CP720*

PowerShot A640
High powered features with extensive manual creative controls
- 10.0 Megapixels with 6.35cm (2.5") vari-angle LCD
- 4x optical zoom with safety zoom and digital teleconverter
- 21 shooting modes and 1cm macro shooting
- 16:9 widescreen still shooting and playback

Php 24,950
FREE Camera case, 512 MB SD Card, *SELPHY CP720*

PowerShot A710 IS
Innovative & highly intelligent performer
- 7.1 Megapixels
- 6x optical zoom with optical image stabilizer
- Safety zoom & digital teleconverter
- 6.35cm (2.5") LCD with night display

Php 23,500
FREE Camera case, 512 MB SD Card, *SELPHY CP720*

PowerShot S3 IS
Amazingly beautiful stills, incredibly seamless movies
- 6.0 Megapixels with 5.08cm (2.0") LCD
- 12x optical zoom with UD lens
- Optical image stabilizer
- 16:9 widescreen still shooting and playback

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FREE Camera case, 256 MB SD Card, 4 pcs. rechargeable batteries with charger

PowerShot G7
Acclaimed top-of-the-line model for photography enthusiasts
- 10.0 Megapixels for large prints
- 6x optical zoom with optical image stabilizer
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Highly stylish and sophisticated IXUS innovation
- 7.1 Megapxlels with 2.4x optical zoom
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IXUS 70
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- Face Detection and Red Eye Correction Technology
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- Slimmer body - 19.4 mm

~~Php 19,950~~
Now Php 17,950
FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

IXUS 75
- 7.1 Megapixels with 7.62cm (3.0") Pure Colour LCD
- Face Detection and Red Eye Correction Technology
- Sound recording
- Auto ISO shift
- Slimmer body - 19.6 mm

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FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

IXUS 850 IS
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IXUS 950 IS
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- DIGIC III engine
- Multiple face detection

Php 26,950
FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

IXUS900 Ti
Flagship IXUS model fusing image quality, functionality and elegance
- 10 megapixels in an elegant titanium casing
- 3x optical zoom with safety zoom
- DIGIC III & Face Detection technology

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Now Php 27,950
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SELPHY CP740
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SELPHY CP750
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- Battery operable
- Easy to use card slot
- Accomodates IrSimple high speed infrared communication

Php 9,500
FREE SELPHY Bag, SELPHY Art Kit

SELPHY ES1
- Dye-sublimation technology
- Creative printouts
- Integrated ink and paper
- Infrared
- My Colors Function
- ID photo printing

Php 15,995
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SELPHY Scrapbooking Kit

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Enjoy up to Php8,000 worth of freebies. Premium items given may vary according to the camera model purchased.

PowerShot A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME
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Promo Period: August 17 to September 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3932, Series of 2007.

Parents cautioned on use of vaccine

I'D LIKE TO THANK CATHY BABAO FOR HER Sept. 9 column on the new HPV vaccine, and her reference to the debate on the need for the inoculation of our daughters ("Protecting daughters from cervical cancer").

She noted that "Most women with HPV infection don't develop cervical cancer. The vaccine protects against leading causes of cervical cancer, but it doesn't ward off other causes of cervical cancer." These points get buried in the media blitz. It takes years of chronic infection for undiagnosed pre-cancerous cervical lesions to develop into cervical cancer. Over 90 percent of women clear themselves of the infection within two years, without any symptoms.

Babao also quoted the views of Dr. Cynthia Cuayo Juico. That particular line about "no harm in waiting it out" was quite refreshing considering the barrage of advertising that has mothers worrying whether we are not doing what we should to prevent cervical cancer in our daughters.

Not cited, however, are a few additional points that parents can consider before making a decision:

1. The immunity is for five years only. It is not known whether a booster will be necessary. That clever marketing ploy of suggesting that our future sons-in-law may be infected due to their premarital sexual activity just sows fear in us.

2. Cervical cancer screening (through pap smears) would catch the HPV strains before these can develop into cancer. Most women who develop invasive cervical cancer have not had regular cervical cancer screening for years. There is no marketing campaign being undertaken by the companies to promote cervical cancer screening, which costs only P150 (at most P500), versus the P18,000 to P21,000 cost of the "3-dose vaccine," excluding doctors' fees.

3. There are still many uncertainties on the safety of the drug, especially long-term, and there is an absence of scientific evidence on its safety for prepubescent girls. The American College of Pediatricians said, "the degree of protection and spectrum of side effects remain to be determined." Gardasil was not studied for the impact on female fertility or the possibility of inducing other cancers. Over 2,200 incidences of adverse side effects have been reported in its first year of use.

Babao and Dr. Juico implied a more cautious approach to allowing gynecologists and pediatricians to suggest this vaccine to their patients, at least until we know the long-term effects of this vaccine. This wiser approach is contradicted by the manufacturer's broad and sweeping advertising campaign—complete with celebrity endorsers—to convince everyone that their daughters need the vaccine.

Babao's article was one of the few that help parents and daughters make a decision on this vaccine—a decision based on full disclosure, rather than one driven by marketing hype.

By the way, have you seen this: http://money.cnn.com/2006/06/02/news/companies/pluggedin_fortune/?

—MEG FRANCISCO,
mvf@pldtdsl.net

Above-the-law frats

KUDOS TO THE INQUIRER FOR ITS COVERage of Cris Mendez's death. Everyone in the University of the Philippines knows that he died because of hazing—a blatant violation of the Anti-Hazing Law.

But that is just one of the many irregularities committed by UP fraternities. There is a university rule which says that they should not recruit freshmen. Well, go to the Kalayaan Residence Hall (freshmen's dorm) and ask around as to who has become a fratman this first semester. I know someone there (a freshman) who was forced to join a frat, and when he wanted to back out after finding out about the university rule and the hazing part of the process, he felt he was threatened.

I am sure none of the freshmen who were recruited to a frat this semester would volunteer to testify against these fraternities out of fear for their lives. Now that they are in, they are aware of the culture of violence prevalent among the fraternities in the university. I feel sorry for them.

And it seems that the UP administration does not have the guts to help them and to provide them protection. Perhaps, it is also afraid.

What is happening to the so-called "premier" university of the country? Is it now run by fear?

—JR DIZON,
jrldizon@yahoo.com

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ARMM to get bulk of $190-M US grant

COTABATO CITY—THE AUTONOMOUS REGION in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will receive most of the $190 million peace and development assistance pledged by the US government, a ranking US Embassy official said.

"What is interesting about this is that it was a grant, it's not a loan, it's a grant from the American people and it is focused on developing the business and economy of Mindanao," Paul W. Jones, US Embassy deputy chief of mission, told the INQUIRER by phone on Thursday.

He said about 60 percent of the assistance would go to the ARMM, which is composed of the poverty-stricken provinces of Maguindanao, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-tawi, Lanao del Sur and Shariff Kabunsuan.

"What we see in Mindanao is tremendous opportunity and potentials for prosperity and for peace. Mindanao is an untapped region in terms of developing its own potentials and we frankly would like to see that potential realized," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney signed on Wednesday the new Mindanao Peace and Development Agreement, which seeks to develop infrastructure and expand economic opportunities in war-torn areas of the island.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the government agency Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) will oversee the implementation of the programs under the MPAD Agreement.

When asked whether this has anything to do with the reported plan of the United States to establish military bases in Mindanao, Jones said: "Let me be very clear, there are no US bases in the Philippines and we have no intention, no interest in having American bases in the Philippines."

The reports surfaced amid the continued deployment of US troops in Mindanao, including Sulu, Basilan and North Cotabato.

"What we have is a partnership for the 21st century that focuses on developing prosperity for our people because we believe it is the best way to secure peace," he said.

Jones said that "building American bases would not be the best way to secure peace in Mindanao."

"So we don't want to have a base, we don't have a base, we don't have (any) intention of developing a base," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Bids for the Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Desktop Computers to GEM Program -Partner Schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) under the USAID-financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified companies/contractors/suppliers to submit bids for the supply of computers to partner schools under its Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program. Procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the U.S Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) – Part 14 which governs sealed bidding procedures. The contract shall be awarded based on the technical, financial, and organizational capability of the bidder, the responsiveness of the submission to the essential requirements of the Invitation for Bid (IFB) and, the reasonableness of the bid.

Essentially, the contracted work shall consist of providing up to 500 computers and local area networking materials to approximately 200 schools located in the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM), based on a procurement/delivery schedule beginning on or about November 12 through December 13, 2007, with the following specifications. ***U.S.-branded Desktop Computers with 1 year warranty: at least Intel Celeron 2.66 GHz or AMD Sempron 1.8 GHz or its U.S. commercial equivalent; 512 MB DDR Memory for workstations; 60 GB 7200 RPM HDD; 15" colored monitor; CD ROM; tower Casing w/ 300 watts power supply; keyboard; multimedia speakers; USB optical Mouse; built-in sound and video cards; floppy disk drive; network adapter LAN Card; mouse pad; glass filter screen; CPU protective plastic cover; 500 watts AVR; and 500 VA UPS.*** Only bidders that are able to demonstrate their commitment to supply the above-listed hardware according to the required delivery schedule will be considered qualified to participate in this solicitation process. Bidders also must provide the following information which will form part of the basis for evaluating their respective bids: (a) details of their ability to deliver the required products, inclusive of on-time delivery, transport and service arrangements; (b) description of delivery networks in the areas given and a list of their local affiliates/distubutors/resellers; (c) list of present contracts as well as that of successfully completed projects similar to the work requirements described herein; and (d) name of a senior counterpart personnel with demonstrated experience in working in the ARMM and CAAM. Further details are provided in the solicitation document.

Starting October 1, 2007, the solicitation document for this procurement activity will be available for pick-up from the office of the GEM Deputy Program Manager for Contracts & Administration with Tel Nos: (082) 225-1569 loc. 202 or (082) 225-1451 to 53. This document will contain the list of proposed schools for assistance and the proposed installation schedule. A pre-bid submission conference is scheduled at 10 AM of October 5, 2007 at the GEM Program Management Office in Davao City and prospective bidders are expected to send representatives to this meeting. Sealed bids must be received no later than 11 AM on October 10, 2007 at the office of the GEM Deputy Program Manager for Contracts & Administration (CLIC Computers), 2/F, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City, 8000 Philippines. Bid submissions by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Any questions regarding this procurement activity should be directed to the GEM Program Contracts Office via Fax: (082) 225-1454. Prospective bidders are advised that at the present, USAID approval to proceed with this procurement action has yet to be obtained and the GEM Program is only proceeding with this activity to save time as the procurement must be completed no later than December 13, 2007 based on a strict schedule which requires GEM Program personnel present during each on-site delivery. If USAID's approval is not obtained, this procurement may be cancelled with no obligation to provide material compensation to bidders in the preparation of their responses to this solicitation.

The GEM Program is financed by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo).

DPWH execs under fire for faulty highway

BAGUIO CITY—PUBLIC WORKS Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. lashed out at contractors and his own men for their shoddy work on the country's primary gateway to Cordillera farms that produce Metro Manila's daily supply of salad vegetables.

Speaking on Ebdane's behalf, Elizabeth Pre Pilorin, acting chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways public information division, said the secretary had ordered them to replace substandard sections of Halsema Highway that connect Benguet and Mt. Province after a surprise inspection he made there last week.

Concrete pavement worth P80 million that covers stretches of Halsema Highway fell below the 75 percent of the required compressive road strength, according to Ebdane's report.

Ebdane also discovered that the contractors were using substandard materials.

Pilorin said Ebdane also wanted government engineers to explain why they broke up 11 contracts for the second work phase of Halsema's construction into 24 subcontracts.

"It won't surprise us if he sues his own men before the Office of the Ombudsman," a DPWH official said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has included the highway's completion among her administration's priorities.

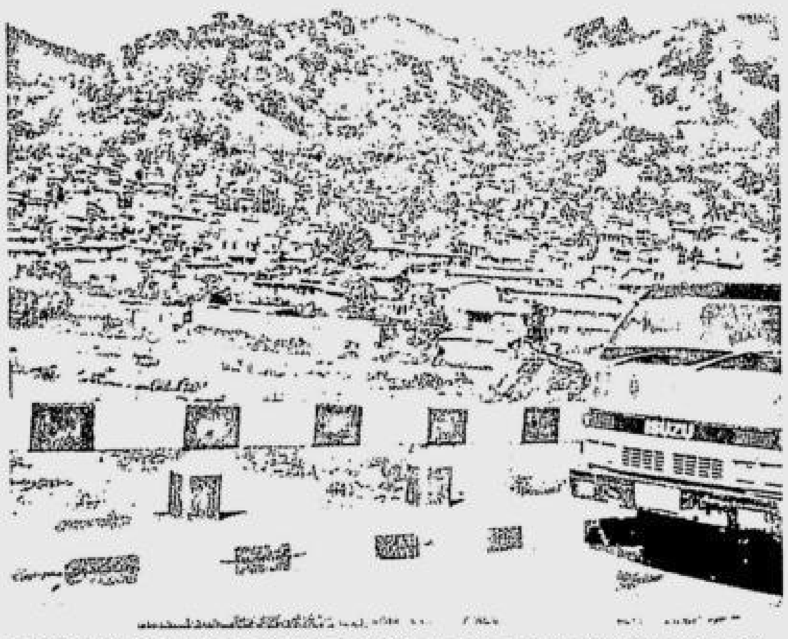
Based on Ms Arroyo's instructions, Halsema Highway should also connect Banaue town in Ifugao and Kalinga, Pilorin said.

In March 2006, the DPWH announced the completion of the first phase of the road project that links Baguio to Mount Data, which straddles Benguet and Mt. Province.

The DPWH has contracted the second phase linking Mt. Data to Bontoc town in Mt. Province, and the third phase, which links Bontoc and Banaue, where the rice terraces are located.

But Ebdane was enraged to discover that the DPWH district engineering office in Mt. Province had split the government contract into 24 smaller projects, violating Republic Act 9184 (the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2002), Pilorin said.

The law prohibits the breakup of government contracts "into artificial phases or sub-contracts for the purpose of evading or circumventing … the necessity of public bidding and the requirements for the alternative methods of procurement." *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



BRIDGES, like this one in the Cordillera, are key to development of areas far north.
EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

3 LTO men in truck extortion arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—Three Land Transportation Office employees based in Barangay Cabid-An in Sorsogon province were caught in the act of extorting money from truck drivers in an entrapment operation conducted Wednesday morning by the NBI Legazpi District Office (Legdo), the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Sorsogon City Police Office.

NBI Legdo agent-in-charge Tomas Enrile said they had long been receiving reports on the extortion occurring in the area, although no affidavits had been lodged earlier.

After receiving formal complaints from Cotabato-based truckers George Bangcas and Santi Lico, NBI agents conducted video surveillance on the reported LTO unit and found that the personnel were indeed collecting money from every bus, truck and motorcycle passing through the checkpoint.

The amount of money they extorted from drivers reportedly ranged from P25 to P100. *Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio; Taguig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction of Four (4) units 10-Door Apartment for Officers and Enlisted Personnel

1 The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the BSSD Fund under GHQ MFO AA Nr. JB0982 2007 MOD 0700 intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Submission/ Opening of Eligibility Documents	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
			Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
LOT 1 – Construction of Two (2) units 10 Door Apartment for Officers	Php 12,029,830.00	03 Oct'07 9.00 AM	11 Oct'07 9.00 AM	23 Oct'07 9.00 AM	Php 6,000.00
LOT 2 – Construction of Two (2) units 10 Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel	Php 10,865,841.57				Php 6,000.00

2 The Armed Forces of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Construction of Four (4) units 10-Door Apartment for Officers and Enlisted Personnel** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs before **October 02, 2007** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **October 03, 2007, 9:00 AM** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

3. The PN BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Requirements and Forms at PN BAC Secretariat, Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, upon the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 300.00** ***(fee for the Eligibility Requirements and Forms)***. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee before **October 03, 2007, 9:00 AM**.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Secretariat, Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **0800H – 1700H on Monday to Friday**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 11, 2007, 9:00 AM** at the ***Office of the Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City***

7 Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 23, 2007, 9:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount specified below

- Manager's Check equivalent to 1% of ABC.
- Surety Bond equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC

8. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 23, 2007, 9:00 AM** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Contact person CDR GLICERIO P. VILLANUEVA PN
Cell No.: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel. Nr.: 816-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PN BAC

(PDI – September 22, 2007)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/JOINT VENTURE on an "as-is where-is" basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sqm)	Floor Price (PhP)	
I. FIRST OFFERING – SALE			
1. Sto. Domingo, Angeles City, Pampanga	614	2,088,000	
2. Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga [a]	1,242	1,600,000	
3. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija [a]	117	2,173,000	
4. Tugbok (Mintal), Davao City [a]	2,501	1,116,000	
5. Pasay City [a]	256 / 256	4,258,000	
6. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	635	2,222,500	
7. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	423	1,480,500	
8. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	2,050	8,200,000	
9. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	1,948	7,792,000	
10. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	899	1,708,000	
11. Quiapo, Manila [a]	1,476	10,940,000	
II. FIRST OFFERING – LEASE			
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	29,932/mo.	359,190/yr.
III. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac [a]	3,751	2,521,000	
2. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental [b]	10,000	2,130,000	
3. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	7,982,000	
4. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	4,447,000	
5. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	4,470	469,350	
6. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	6,529	685,545	
7. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	2,705	4,263,250	
8. Salapungan, Tarlac City [a]	1,185	3,318,000	
9. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,389,000	
10. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	231	231,000	
11. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
12. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
13. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
14. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,041,000	
15. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	4,367,000	
16. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	366,000	
17. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
IV. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,327/mo.	1,443,920/yr.
V. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE		Sale (PhP)	Lease (PhP)
1. **Alangan, Limay, Bataan** [a]	584,147	67,482,000	84,353/mo. 1,012,230/yr
2. **PNOC Housing Compound** *also open for Joint Venture Dev't.*	59,323	127,533,000	478,851/mo. 5,743,811/yr.

[a] with informal dwellers; [b] with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion with existing lease and about 540 sq.m. traversed by a Brgy. Rd

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2/F, Estate Mgt. Dept., PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City from **Sept. 24-Oct. 9, 2007** after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **Oct. 10, 2007 (2:00pm)** and **Oct. 24, 2007 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

For the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, interested parties shall submit the required Eligibility Documents. Eligible offerors shall be required to pay a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 and submit a proposal to PNOC at the above address.

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/ OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

For properties for negotiation (under Items III, IV and V), offerors may submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice.

The Bidder/Offeror acknowledges that he/she inspected the properties and verified the titles thereof. The winning bidder/offeror upon receipt of the Notice of Award and after making full payment shall enter the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. Should the above-mentioned dates be declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/ offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BERNADETTE B. JUGAN**
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI–September 22, 2007)

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto
INQUIRER Visayas
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

A CHINESE egret is one of the migratory birds frequenting the wetlands of Eastern Visayas.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A new breed of bird watchers

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

EASTERN VISAYAS HAS A new breed of bird watchers, and its members are all villagers.

They will be scanning the skies or espying on seashores and wetlands for foreign birds, not as a hobby but to help protect the region's economy and public health.

The Bantay Ibon (Bird Watch) Brigades were organized by the Regional Task Force on Avian Influenza to further strengthen efforts to prevent the entry and spread of avian influenza (AI) that has struck many of the Philippines' neighbors in Asia.

Migratory birds, which are potential carriers of the avian flu virus, are expected to be coming to Leyte this month until April next year.

Leo Cañeda, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture and head of the task force, said the support of the villagers, particularly in areas frequented by the visiting birds, was crucial because they would be the first to sound the alarm of an avian flu outbreak.

Avian flu or "bird flu" is a contagious disease of animals caused by viruses that normally infect only birds and, less commonly, pigs, according to the World Health Organization. In recent years, however, the virus has also infected and killed human beings.

Proactive and preventive

Four years after the highly pathogenic disease broke out in Asia, caused the culling of millions of poultry, and infected more than 200 people in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and other countries, the Philippines is still not letting its guard down.

"We have to be proactive and preventive," Cañeda said, referring to continuing effort to safeguard the region from the entry and spread of avian flu.

The regional task force has been coordinating and working together with provincial, municipal and barangay governments to avert an outbreak and to be prepared in case one occurs. "We must not be complacent just because there has been no bird flu case yet in the region and the country," Cañeda said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, a member agency of the regional task force, has been tasked with organizing Bantay Ibon Brigades, particularly in areas usually visited by migratory birds.

Arnulito Viojan, focal person of the AI protection program of the DENR regional office, said the wetlands and other bird sites had been monitored since 1998 and during the bird flu scare in 2003. Wetlands are low-lying areas of land that are regularly or permanently covered with fresh or salt water, and which can become the habitat for a wide range of bird life.

Eastern Visayas has 11 wetland areas, among them the Ormoc Bay Wetland in Ormoc City; Carigara Bay Wetland in Carigara, Leyte; Guiuan Wetland in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Lake Lagbangan in San Antonio, Northern Samar; Catubig Rice Paddies in Catubig, Northern Samar, and Lake Bito Wetlands in MacArthur, Leyte.

So far, there has been no report of unusual deaths of migratory birds in these areas.

But the regional AI task force is not leaving anything to chance. Early this year, the creation of Bantay Ibon Brigades was started in the Guiuan, Carigara Bay, Ormoc Bay and Lake Bito wetlands.

Survey results

"We have surveyed these areas and we already have the results on what species of migratory birds were usually found in these areas," Viojan said. Among the birds were plovers, rails, herons, Chinese egrets and storks.

Members of the Bantay Ibon Brigade are village officials whom they contacted through the municipal mayor and agriculture officer.

"One of the concerns (during the organizational meeting) was the confusion it would make if the names of the birds would be interchanged. So, we suggested the making of a brochure about wetlands and the birds that would serve as a field guide," Viojan said.

During the training, the members were shown pictures of migratory birds known to visit their areas and told of their English names. They were asked to give the local name of a bird, if any.

Viojan said the brigade would report to the task force using the local names of the birds.

"If they encounter any bird for the first time and could not identify it, they can accompany their report with a drawing of the bird showing basic features like the color of the beak and feet," Viojan said.

The members were warned not to get close to any infected bird or poultry. "In case there are mortalities, it is important that those who would go there are equipped with protection gears," Viojan explained.

The brigade has been tasked with monitoring bird movements in the wetlands at least once a week. It has been provided with communication links or a list of persons to contact in case of emergencies.

Enthusiastic

So far, the new bird watching group has been formed in about 50 barangays in Guiuan, Carigara, Barugo, MacArthur and Merida towns, and in Ormoc.

Viojan said the monitoring activities would go full swing in October yet, when the brochures are available.

The villagers "are already enthusiastic to start their monitoring," he revealed.

But what is important, he added, is that the volunteers for disease surveillance and response had shown that the task force was not only the concern of the government but also of the people.

"The people have to participate in monitoring their places of bird flu because they would be among those to be affected if there is an (avian influenza) outbreak," Viojan said.

Quarantine stations in major seaports and airports in the region have been strengthened to prevent the transport or entry of exotic birds affected by the avian influenza virus.

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A MEMBER of the Moro National Liberation Front, which martial law's excesses helped give birth to, keeps his uniform in the MNLF army at the MNLF's Lupah Sug State Revolutionary Command in Indanan, Sulu.

JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Ex-head of militant group missing, say human rights workers

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A former ranking official of the militant Pambansang Lakas ng mga Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has been reported missing in Agoncillo, Batangas since Sept. 3, the human rights group Karapatan said Friday.

Manolito Serrano, 43, a resident of Barangay Hukay, Calatagan, Batangas, and former secretary general of the national fisherman's group, was last seen in Barangay Mapika in Agoncillo town, said Dina Capetillo, Karapatan-Batangas secretary general.

"We're really worried for his safety. We're afraid that he has been abducted by government forces," Capetillo said in a mobile phone interview.

She said before he went missing, Serrano took a temporary leave of absence as an officer of the Samahan ng Magbubukid ng Batangas (Sambat) to look for work to support his family.

She said the militant leader was staying at the house of a barangay official in Agoncillo while he was looking for a job.

Capetillo said Serrano accompanied the barangay official for a medical checkup in a local hospital, moments before he went missing.

She said they suspect that the barangay official's nephew, who is a member of the Philippine Air Force based in Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, had something to do with the sudden disappearance of Serrano.

Capetillo said they have looked for Serrano's whereabouts in police and military camps in Batangas but officials denied having custody of the activist.

"We will not stop looking for Serrano. We all know that the police and the military have denied responsibility in the disappearance of activists who later turned up in their camps," she said. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Survivors recount mosque massacre, abuses in Mindanao under Marcoses

COTABATO CITY—MASSACRE of civilians, a university director made to kneel by a soldier, who could barely read proper nouns on a resident certificate called *cedula*, and Army draftees manhandling students in community high schools.

These are only some of the events that took place in Mindanao during martial law, according to those who experienced it.

Raymundo Pelaez, a student leader at the Mindanao State University in Marawi City when the military rule was declared, said campus "militarization" was used to suppress students' rights and academic freedom.

"There were cases of disappearances and forced abduction (in MSU) ... But of course, those were not reported, much less highlighted, in the national press," Pelaez, a journalist who now works as information officer in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM government, said.

Media crackdown

Unlike in Manila where Marcos' military police padlocked newspaper and other media offices, he said the military coercion in campuses "hindered the growth of fertile minds in longing for the space of freer expression and press."

But Pelaez said the situation in the metropolis was relatively better because icons of press freedom and noted human rights lawyers were able to help each other guard against government excesses.

Still bleeding

In Mindanao, Pelaez said, the whole might of the Marcos military was deployed to become the tool of repression and murder.

For instance, he said overnight curfew-hours was imposed in the MSU main campus in Marawi City even two years before martial law, and arrested violators were subjected to beatings by campus militias.

Raihanna Kasim-Hanok, now 33, and her mother, a public school teacher, are among thousands of rights claimants over the Marcos estates in the class suit won by the country's martial law victims in 1994.

Now mother of three, Raihanna was three-month-old when her father and all civilian men in the villages of Kolong-Kolong and Tran in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat were murdered in 1974 inside the community mosque—which residents say, "still bleeds" to this day.

Like animals

"The men were herded like animals and made to undress inside the mosque, hours before they were sprayed with automatic rifles," Jimmy Kusain, a survivor of the carnage recounted.

One of the women taken to an anchored Navy ship said she overheard an operation officer in the area arguing on two-way radio against an apparent order-giver on the other line to "leave no witness" by also killing women and children along with their men.

The Moro militant group Suara Bangsamoro has acknowledged that many people died during martial law in Mindanao.

Undeclared martial law

But the group said the Arroyo administration has committed more offenses against the Moros when compared to Marcos.

"There seems to be an undeclared martial law under the GMA administration which we considered worse than that of the dictator Marcos' reign in the 1970s," Suara spokesperson Bai Ali Indayla said.

She said that since Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency in 2001, Muslims have always suffered. *Nash B. Maulana and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Army exec bans Inquirer correspondent

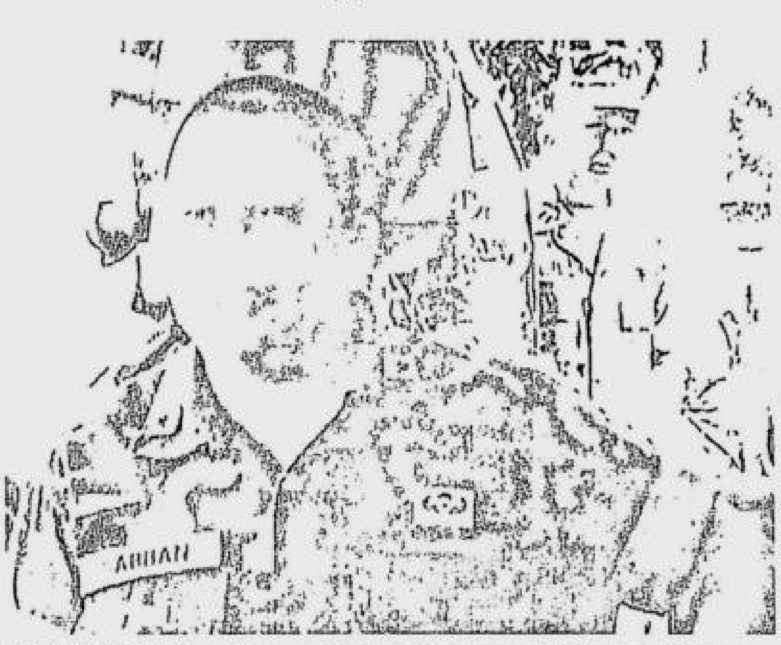
DAVAO CITY—A LOCAL MILITARY commander has banned INQUIRER correspondent Julie Alipala from covering military activities in Basilan.

Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, commander of the Task Force Thunder, was quoted by some of his officers as ordering them not to allow Alipala to cover their activities in Basilan.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Sabban.

Alipala said it was no less than Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, who confirmed the ban.

"They informed me of banning a correspondent and the instruction allegedly came from General Esperon, but I didn't believe such instruction from CSAFP (Esperon)," Alipala quoted Dolorfino as saying on Sept. 18 when they went together to Sulu.



AN AMERICAN soldier appears to eavesdrop as Philippine Marine Corps commandant Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino talks with Task Force Thunder chief Brig. General Juancho Sabban on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007.

JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Clash coverage

She said her military sources have told her the ban stemmed from her coverage of the Basilan encounters.

Alipala said the military official had the impression that "there was an inconsistency in my reports when there was none."

But what apparently incensed Sabban was her report about alleged changes in the military's operational plan, which was being blamed for the death of several soldiers.

A town mayor even said the 15 soldiers—including five junior officers—died like sitting ducks during the Aug. 18 clash in Tipo-tipo Central.

"I would not say there was inconsistency in my report when I got the information from reliable sources," Alipala said.

No Esperon order

Armed Forces Chief Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said he did not order a ban on the INQUIRER, particularly Alipala.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, Armed Forces spokesperson, said that "General Esperon is not an officer who would issue such an instruction."

"I talked to him last night and he said he didn't issue that instruction," Bacarro said.

Bacarro said Esperon is "always open to all and he is not discriminating anybody."

Order attacked

"He does not even mind personal attacks on him," he said.

Sabban's alleged order to ban Alipala has been criticized by several sectors including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Khaled Musa, deputy chair of the MILF committee on information, said instead of banning Alipala, the military should have conducted an inquiry into her reports that military commanders committed abuses and lapses.

"The military should investigate what a member of the Fourth Estate had exposed instead of banning the bearer of the news from covering Basilan," Musa said in a statement posted on the MILF website yesterday.

Khaled said banning Alipala will only strengthen her credentials as a true journalist, "who vowed to uphold the truth at all times."

"On the other hand, it reinforces the perception that the military is hiding something from the public and has indeed committed that abuses and lapses," he said.

Jose Manuel Mamauag, director of the Commission on Human Rights in Western Mindanao, said the ban was "discriminate selectivity."

"(It) showed that journalists' exposing anomalies and illegal activities are perceived as hostile entities," he said. *Dennis Santos, Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

30 taken ill after eating meat of rabid dog

STA. CRUZ, DAVAO DEL SUR—More than 30 residents of Barangay Tagabuli here were rushed to various hospitals on Wednesday after feasting on the meat of a suspected rabid dog, Mayor Joel Lopez said Thursday.

Lopez said the residents complained of severe stomach pains and weakness an hour after eating the dog meat.

He said a resident decided to butcher and cook her pet and then invited her neighbors to feast on the meat.

It was only after the neighbors complained of stomach pains and weakness that she told them the dog had actually gone rabid before it was killed and cooked.

"She was very apologetic," one of the residents said.

Lopez said the victims have asked him for help, particularly for free anti-rabies shot.

"They think that they have contacted rabies after eating the dog meat," he said.

But he said the local government could not provide them anti-rabies shots yet.

He said the local health office was still waiting for the results of laboratory tests conducted on patients.

"We have to be sure before doing that," Lopez said.

Medical journals define rabies as an acute infection of the brain caused by a virus transmitted usually by bites from infected animals.

It can also be transmitted through scratches, abrasions, open wounds or mucous membranes.

A person can also get rabies by eating the brain of an infected animal.

Rabies can kill if a victim does not undergo treatment. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

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National Capital Region
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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
ACCESS MOBILE CORP. P7 Manila Bank Bldg., 6772 Ayala Ave., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City	Duoh Song Korean	Computer Programmer
RPG WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 71-B Masukol St., Barangay Tejeros, Makati City	Leigh Vincent Phelps British	Finance Manager
NO.1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, 7 Eisenhower St., San Juan City	Jeong Soo Shin Korean	English-Korean Translator
NO.1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, 7 Eisenhower St., San Juan City	Gun Soo Kang Korean	Adviser
HIPHIL PROPERTIES INC. 3/F Goodwill Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ho Geun Kim Korean	Marketing General Manager
SYKES ASIA, INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jaekwan Park Korean	Korean Client Support
SOUND AND BEYOND AUTOWORKS 1800 Ortigas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Junho Han Korean	Marketing Manager/ Consultant
SYKES ASIA, INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jin Baek Jung Korean	Korean Client Support
CHIYODA PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Meralco Ave. cor. General Araneta St., Pasig City	Takashi Ando Japanese	Vice President for Information Technology Department
PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF U.K. 25/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas & dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Mark Craig Chapman British	Partnership Distribution Head
MJ RICKSON TRADING CORP. L-2, B-40 Martiniko St., Longos, Malabon City	Shuangmei Ke Chinese	Senior Marketing Officer
MJ RICKSON TRADING CORP. L-2, B-40 Martiniko St., Longos, Malabon City	Jinqun Pan Chinese	Quality Controller
MJ RICKSON TRADING CORP. L-2, B-40 Martiniko St., Longos, Malabon City	Yashuang Shi Chinese	Marketing Officer
XMAN SERVICES PTY LTD PHILIPPINES Unit 1203 12/F LKG Tower 6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Raul Ricardo Farfan Amat Y Leon Peruvian	Community Relations Advisor
TONG YANG SAVINGS BANK INC. G/F Chatham House, 116 Valero cor. V.A. Rufino Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Nakseung Back Korean	Korean Desk, Supervisor
JS MOCT, INC. No. 14 Sgt. Esguerra Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City	Yun Kung Liew Malaysian	President
E-WORLD INT'L. INSTITUTE, INC. 10 Farelane St., Fairmont Park Subd., North Fairview, Quezon City	Hongshun Bie Chinese	Teaching Manager
IBM BUSINESS SERVICES INC. 17th & 18th Flrs., 11 Cyber One Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City	Romuald Dzemo Ngong Cameroonian	Employee Contact Services Tier 1
THE PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION, INC. Rm. 505 Amberland Plaza, Julia Vargas St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jane Walker British	Executive Director

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-September 22, 2007)

'Rights' film's X-rating slammed

By Jeannette I. Andrade

SAYING THEY WERE SIMPLY PRESENTING FACTS THAT did not deserve censorship, 13 independent filmmakers and their supporters yesterday assailed the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) for giving the collection of short films titled "Rights" an X rating.

Sunshine Matutina, one of the filmmakers, said, "Our attempts to effect change should not be curtailed. The MTRCB is preventing us from expressing artistically how we feel about the situation. It is wrong that there is this body who can tell people that it is not for public viewing."

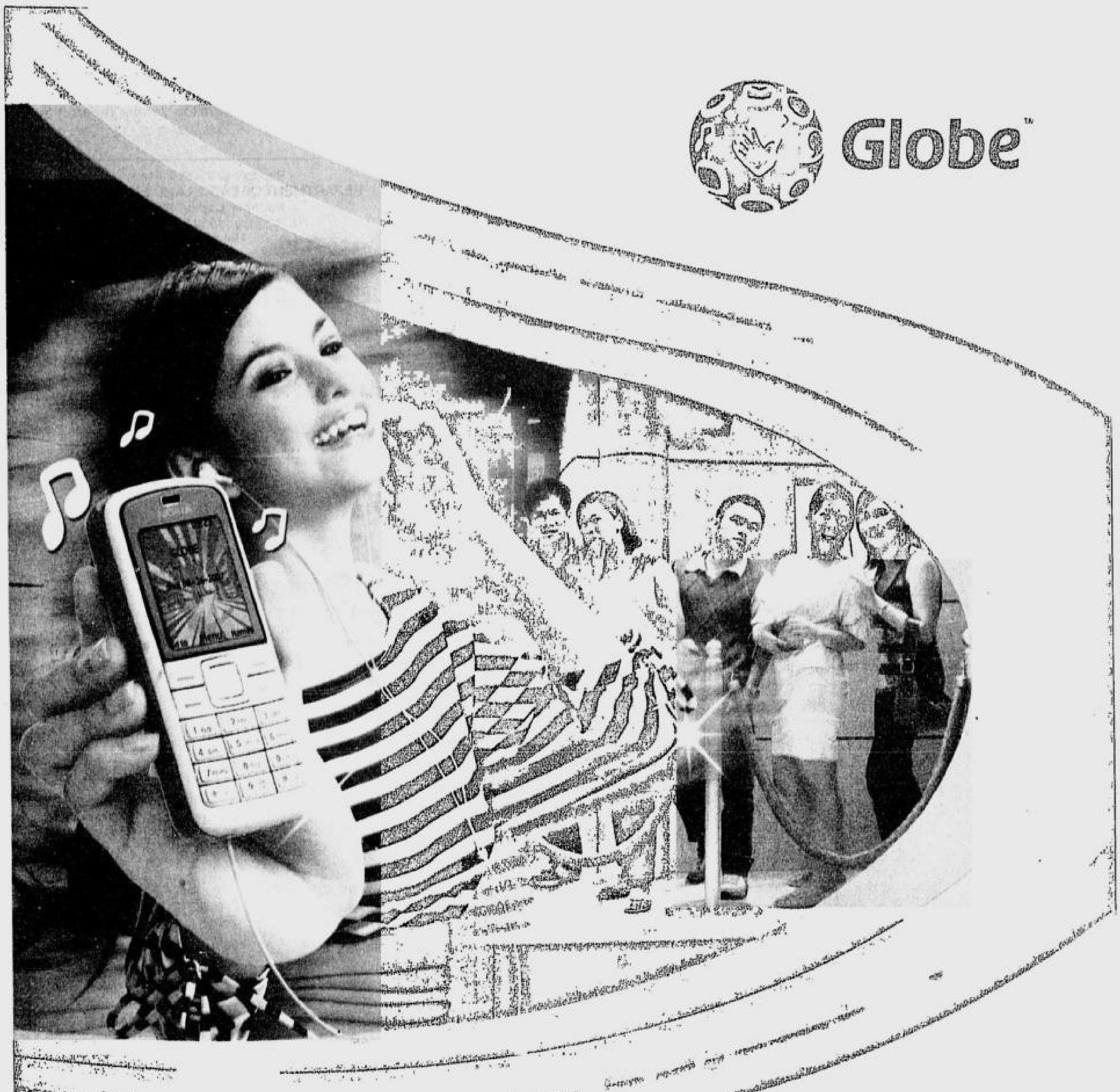
Movie director Carlito Siguion-Reyna, who expressed support for the filmmakers, went as far as calling for the amendment of the law creating the MTRCB, Presidential Decree 1986, claiming it was a remnant of martial law.

"X is simply censorship. They are hiding behind the semantics of classification," Siguion-Reyna said.

"There are no visible acts of violence (in the collection). They are all criticism of government policy. This is a form of legitimate airing of grievances. They should be given the same space as any editorial in the newspaper," he added.

Jose Luis Burgos of the Free Jonas Burgos Movement (FJBM) described "Rights" as nothing more than a series of independently-produced public service advertisements, but this time showing the "present human rights situation in the Philippines."

"We are very disappointed with the decision of the MTRCB to classify 'Rights' with an X rating. The ruling stifles freedom of speech and expression and serves only the interests of the government," Burgos said.



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ELLIOT YAMIN: "Brand-new smile" RYAN LIM

'Idol' finalist in town for mall shows

By Fran Katigbak

ELLIOT YAMIN, "AMERICAN IDOL" SEASON 5 finalist, has a lot to smile about these days.

The 29-year-old American artist, considered by acerbic and hard-to-please "AI" judge, Simon Cowell, as potentially the best male vocalist in the history of the reality talent search, is in the country to perform in a series of shows sponsored by Ayala Malls.

Speaking to members of the media a few hours after his arrival in Manila yesterday, Yamin said: "I have a true career now. My whole adult life, I've experienced working in different places [like] washing dishes [and] selling sneakers."

Born to an Israeli father and a Jewish American mother, Yamin was raised in Richmond, Virginia. He is 90-percent deaf in his left ear and, at 16, was diagnosed with Type I diabetes.

The soul and R&B artist, in fact, had to wear an insulin pump in all of his "AI" performances.

Pulling the device, which resembled an electronic pager, from under his shirt to show the audience, Yamin said, "I have a catheter through my stomach and I change it every three days... My pancreas don't produce any insulin so I need this to survive. It has to be on me at all times."

But he was quick to assure the public that neither the disease nor the device would affect his singing and performance onstage.

Sporting curly hair and what he calls "a brand-new smile" (a look noticeably different from what he had on the show), Yamin did not seem the least bit discomfited or exhausted as he gamely answered questions, laughed with the audience, and showed the warmth and wit familiar to fans who watched him weekly on "AI" Season 5.

The show proved to be a gateway in the entertainment business, catapulting virtual unknowns to fame, such as Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson ("Dreamgirls") and Hawaii-based Fil-Am finalists Jasmine Trias and Camile Velasco of "AI" Season 3.

Yamin has launched a self-titled album produced under independent record label Hickory Records and has since embarked on a promotional tour. His debut single "Wait for You" has been a mainstay on the Billboard charts for weeks.

Yamin's tour of Ayala Malls kicked off at TriNoma yesterday and will be followed by shows at Glorietta today at 7 p.m.; Market! Market! tomorrow at 6 p.m.; Ayala Center Cebu on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.; and Alabang Town Center on Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Aplus METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

QC terminals offer cheaper food items

By Amy R. Remo

SOME 2,000 FAMILIES IN QUEzon City will soon have better access to basic food items such as rice, fish and meat, priced at least 10 percent lower than those sold in retail markets.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday awarded certificates to operate barangay food terminals (BFTs) and Tindahan Natin outlets selling these items in Barangay Pag-Asa and Project 6.

"The BFTs are set to open in the second week of October, while five Tindahan Natin outlets have started operating yesterday," Yap said.

The consumer-friendly food terminals are part of the 42 BFTs being set up this year for low-income groups aimed at expanding access to cheap but premium quality foodstuff.

The food terminals could directly link them to wet markets and retailers.

In this way, small farmers and fishermen can do away with unnecessary trading layers that jack up prices of agricultural produce and reduce their profits.

To date, there are 20 operational BFTs, benefiting more than 343,000 families in Quezon City, Manila, the cities of Taguig, Pasay, Caloocan and Navotas and Bulacan province.

The Department of Agriculture expects 400,000 families to benefit from BFTs in the National Capital Region and Mega Manila this year.

Forty regional BFTs will also be put up in the poorest provinces of the country and in four of the country's economic zones: the First Cavite Industrial Estate, Clark Special Economic Zone, Cavite Export Processing Zone and the Laguna Technopark.

These BFTs are partly funded by the Japan Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers, also known as the Kennedy Round 2 grant, for farmers living below the poverty line.

The program also involves mapping out special routes as food lanes and the use of cold storage facilities in strategic locations to better preserve perishable farm produce.

A SCENE of the crime operative views the body of one of three alleged hijackers killed in a shootout with police in Caybiga, Caloocan City at dawn yesterday. RAFFY LERMA

3 hijacking suspects killed

Police recover stolen steel bars stored in truck

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THREE SUSPECTED HIJACKERS WERE KILLED in a pre-dawn shootout yesterday with police operatives in Caloocan City.

Chief Supt. Pedro Tango of the Northern Police District said, during the operation, eight other suspects were caught unloading cargo from a hijacked truck loaded with steel bars worth P800,000.

But the suspects denied any knowledge of the robbery.

"We did not know it (cargo) was stolen. We were hired to unload it and we did not even know how much we would be paid because we were just grateful to have a job," Giovannie Morcilla and Mark Cruz told the INQUIRER from their cell in the police headquarters.

Tango said the truck's driver, Roger Dahil, and helper Rodien Sagrado, found unharmed but hogtied and blindfolded at the back of the 10-wheel truck, were rescued.

The police officer identified the fatalities as Aladin Tenorio of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City; Robert Bautista, 34, and Ray Ramos 36, both residents of Pandacan, Manila.

"The three allegedly belonged to a group that robbed a truck loaded with snack food valued at P1 million last month," Tango said.

Based on the driver's account, the suspects blocked the truck at around 10:30 p.m. on Sitio Gitna, Caybiga, Caloocan City.

The suspects boarded the truck as it turned to a dark street a few meters away from the MGM compound, where the steel bars were loaded for delivery to Capitol Steel.

Tango said the slain suspects were known members of the *"Ka Oscar"* hijack group that operated in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area and Central Luzon.

A police source said the group used to operate in the Subic area targeting oil tankers. It moved to Metro Manila after stricter measures were imposed in the former military base.

Senior Supt. Rafael Santiago, who led the operation, said his group mounted a pursuit operation after receiving a tip that a truck loaded with steel bars was missing and was hidden in a warehouse in Kaybiga, Caloocan City.

He said they exchanged gunfire with the suspects after the alleged lookout, identified as a certain Tenorio, shot at the policemen.

Santiago said the suspects, armed with a baby armalite and 9 mm pistols, were at the gate of the compound when they exchanged fire with two teams of police operatives.

He added that half of the stolen steel bars were recovered in a compound in Novaliches, Quezon City.

The helpers who were caught transferring the cargo to a smaller vehicle led the police to the location of the stolen materials, Santiago said.

2 men nabbed for selling stolen vehicle side mirrors in Quezon City

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE ARRESTED TWO MEN, BELIEVED to be members of a syndicate, for allegedly possessing and selling stolen side mirrors in Quezon City Thursday afternoon.

Jojo Esguerra, 31, and Jimmy Ong, 23, both residents of Sta. Cruz, Sampaloc, Manila, were apprehended by police operatives Thursday at around 4 p.m. while on board a tricycle at Cardis Street corner Batilao, Barangay Tatalon in Quezon City.

Authorities said patrolling police noticed that the plate number of the tricycle the suspects had boarded appeared blurred, so they decided to flag it down. The law enforcers found 10 pairs of side mirrors the suspects were allegedly trying to hide inside the vehicle.

Case investigator PO3 Salvador Camacho said the suspects admitted they stole the side mirrors from vehicles all over the city. The two could be members of the "Baklas Side Mirror" gang who ply the city to steal side mirrors from parked vehicles, he added.

The suspects later revealed that they would sell the stolen items to a certain "Bogs" in Banawe St., Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City.

The suspects are now detained at the QCPD-PS 11 for violating city ordinance SP1526 which prohibits the possession or selling of side mirrors of unknown origin.

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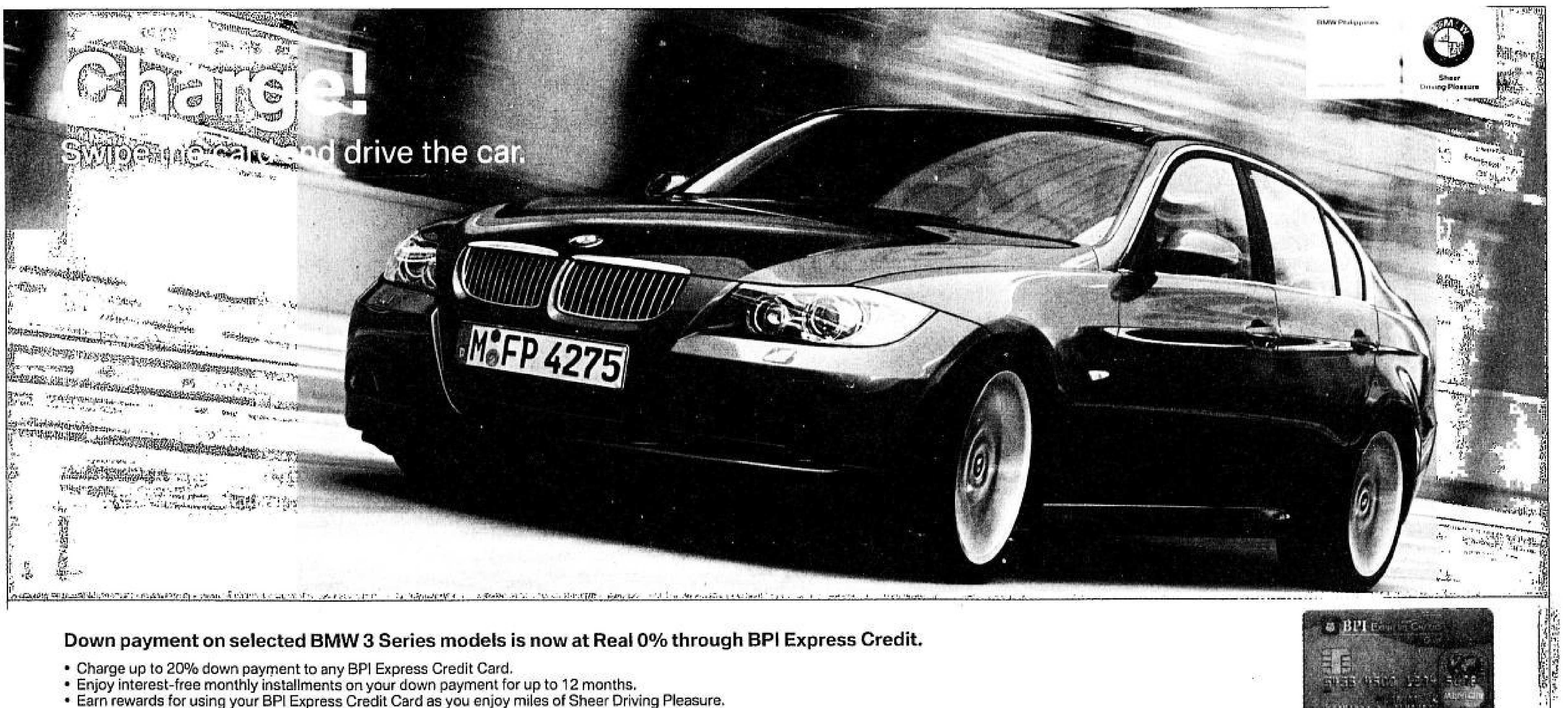

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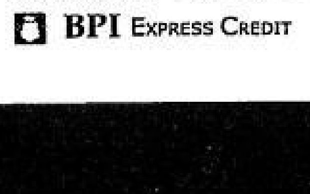

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Delgados seek reinstatement of charges vs Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FAMILY OF SLAIN BUSINESSMAN Federico Delgado is seeking the reversal of a prosecutor's decision to drop murder and frustrated murder complaints against businessman Luis Gonzalez and his driver Antonio Buenaflor.

The prosecutor earlier found no probable cause for the charges against the suspects in connection with Delgado's death and injuries to his girlfriend. Gonzales is the stepbrother of the victim..

In a statement, the Delgado family said it sent a protest of the resolution by acting City Prosecutor of Manila Cielitolindo Luyun to the justice department.

The family asked why Luyun gave more weight to Gonzalez's alibi that he was at the Makati Medical Center (MMC) when Delgado was killed than to the identification of the suspects by Annalisa Pesico, Delgado's girlfriend. Pesico was inside the businessman's Malate house where the businessman was killed on March 10. She was reportedly tied up and assaulted during the incident.

The Delgado family said the prosecutor's resolution went against Supreme Court decisions that gave more weight to a witness' positive identification of a suspect than to the defense of alibi.

The Delgados added that, the prosecutor should also not have considered the statements of 28 MMC Center staff members because they violated the law on sworn affidavits, as these were subscribed to by an ordinary notary public and lacked the certification that the notary had "personally examined the affiants and that he is satisfied that they voluntarily executed and understood their affidavits" as required by the Rules of Court.

Body of rape-murder victim exhumed Monday

By Tina G. Santos, Allison W. Lopez and Julie M. Aurelio

THE BODY OF GERALDINE Palma, the 7-year-old girl rape and murder victim, will be exhumed Monday, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Arnel Dalumpines, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said the bureau already received a clearance from the Parañaque City health office for the exhumation so a DNA test could be conducted.

Palma's parents earlier asked the NBI to conduct its own investigation after the Manila Police District said the body found inside a suitcase last month in North Harbor, Tondo, was not Geraldine.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim called yesterday on police investigators to "focus on facts and not theories," as he said some accusations made by Chief Insp. Alex Yanquiling, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, on Palma's father Gerald were "uncalled for."

The mayor said the accusations were not based on facts.

Outgoing Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales who would take over Manila's Finest on 'Monday, promised to take a closer look into Palma's rape-slay by ordering a reinvestigation of the case.

The police said a check with the St. Paul College Pasig, where Palma was enrolled, showed she was only 3 feet, 10 inches tall. The body identified as Palma's found in a suitcase measured 4 feet, 2 inches.

Yanquiling said the girl's father did not seem to be distraught during the investigation although he had just lost a child.

The police officer also said that even though the NBI was conducting an investigation, the MPD would pursue its own probe and try to locate the girl's nanny, Marites Ontog.

The nanny was the person last seen with the girl before a girl's corpse was found on Aug. 16 in a suitcase at the North Harbor in Tondo.

Yanquiling said they were conducting a background investigation on the child's personality and how she was in school. He said they received information that Geraldine was a neglected child.

Yanquiling also raised the possibility that Gerald sexually abused Ontog. The father has denied the accusations and maintained his daughter was a kidnap victim.

He admitted being late sometimes in picking up his child from school, but denied allegations involving Ontog.

Four suspects—Ramil Diorico, Joey Igos, Renato Bohol and alleged mastermind Henry "Hemlet" Redoblado—were charged with rape with homicide at the Manila Regional Trial Court. Raffy Nepa, who was the first to be arrested by cops, was ordered released by the city prosecutor's office for further investigation.

New police chief starts work Sept. 24 with Manila's Finest

By Julie M. Aurelio

CHIEF SUPT. ROBERTO ROSALES bade farewell "with a heavy heart" yesterday to the Southern Police District and prepared to take over Manila's Finest on Monday.

Rosales, who was named director of the Manila Police District on Thursday, thanked his men for making his nine month stint at the SPD memorable, "short and sweet."

"I leave you with a heavy heart because I've grown used to working here. At the same time, I am going away with confidence because I know that you will carry on what I have begun," he told police officials at the National Capital Region Police Office. He handed over the reins of the SPD to Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman. Senior Supt. Leon Nilo dela Cruz was given jurisdiction of the EPD.

MPD Chief Senior Supt. Danilo Abarsoza will become superintendent of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite.

At yesterday's ceremonies presided over by regional director Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla, Rosales stressed the importance of raising the level of professionalism among policemen through discipline and by meeting their spiritual needs.

"During my stay, we were able to improve the discipline of our cops. Only a disciplined police force can bring back the confidence of the people in us," he said.

He stressed the need to provide for the spiritual needs of policemen through seminars as "without principles, everything would be futile."

Apart from increasing police visibility and improving the physical appearance of the SPD headquarters, Rosales also mentioned the successful resolution of the hostage drama at the Taguig City hall of justice.

Luli opens floodgates to counter-attack

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE usually low-profile Luli Arroyo, the President and Mike Arroyo's only daughter, became abrasive in public.

She accused Jose 'Joey" de Venecia III, her father's accuser, of being a former drug addict and of having a thinning hairline.

If Luli stuck to the issue at hand and didn't make a personal attack, people would have sympathized with her as they had in the past because of her unobtrusive ways.

But with her personal attack on Joey de Venecia, she has opened the floodgates to a counter-attack.

One opposition congressman, who claims to know the Arroyos, told this writer: "Why doesn't Luli look in her own backyard? She won't like what she sees."

For one, Luli's father also has a thinning hairline.

***

Even after Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza accused Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. of aggressively lobbying for his son's firm to be awarded the contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, Joey still has the public's sympathy.

The issue is whether or not some top public officials and influential people have financially benefited from the contract that was allegedly attended with bribes and was grossly overpriced.

Okay, JDV did lobby for his son to bag the contract, so what? The contract was not awarded to Joey anyway.

What JDV did was the natural instinct of a father. Which parent would not root for an offspring?

Besides, if Joey's firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., got the contract, it would have favored the government.

AHI's proposal called for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme with no cash-out from the government.

Clearly, linking the Speaker to the alleged scam was meant to divert from the central issue: who benefited from the deal?

***

Columnist Jarius Bondoc, who exposed the NBN scam, has been receiving death threats in text messages sent to his cellular phone.

One such text message reads: "Bondoc, d k pmunta s Star! Sayang antay k nmin. Di bale s radyo n lang sapul k! Kitakits..bang2! (You didn't go to the Star. We waited for you. It's okay, we'll go to your radio station (dwIZ) since you'll surely be there. Till our meeting. Bang, bang!)

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Illegal immigrants chase false hope to Canada

WINDSOR, ONTARIO—FLEEING stepped-up sweeps by US authorities, illegal immigrants to the United States, mostly Mexican, are arriving in growing numbers at the foot of the bridge in this Canadian border town seeking refugee status.

Still more immigrants, mostly Mexicans who had been living illegally in Florida, have begun trying to make their way past America's northern border at other locations, the majority of them flying into the airport in Toronto, Canadian officials said on Thursday.

The arrivals here began suddenly three weeks ago, just a family or two at first, fueled by the notion—largely unfounded, the authorities here say—that Canada would grant them asylum.

The journey, some of the immigrants said, was first suggested by an organization in Naples, Fla., which charged a fee for assisting with the required paperwork. The idea has spread on the Internet and through social networks.

By Thursday, at least 200 people had turned up here, across the border from Detroit, with as much of their lives as they could shove into suitcases, boxes and garbage bags in their cars. Thousands more, refugee advocates and Canadian officials say, may be on their way.

Advocates for immigrants issued urgent warnings to Mexicans pondering similar journeys, and expressed fury at groups that were encouraging them. In truth, refugee status for Mexican citizens is relatively unusual in Canada.

"It's an outrage that money is being taken to provide false information and dangerous information to these people," said Rivka Augenfeld of the Canadian Council for Refugees, a nonprofit umbrella organization focused on the rights and protection of refugees. "This idea is just out there and growing."

Windsor officials, who hastened to arrange a meeting on Thursday in a community center for some of the new arrivals so they could apply for social services, said they were overwhelmed by the sudden onslaught and deeply worried about the days ahead. Already, they had filled a shelter with 30 single men; officials were paying four motels to house families, said Maj. Wilfred Harbin, administrator for the Salvation Army here. Meals were being delivered to the families by taxi cab.

"We have no idea what we are going to do," said Harbin, who said he had heard that as many as 7,000 Mexicans might be seeking refugee status in the coming weeks.

Eddie Francis, the mayor of Windsor, faxed a letter on Wednesday to Canadian federal authorities seeking emergency financial help.

"I empathize with the challenges but we don't have the ability to manage this," Francis said. "We have never seen anything like this." *NYT*

6 Afghan civilians killed in air strike, says governor

AN ITALIAN soldier of the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) secures the area around the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on Sept. 21. A suicide car bomber blew himself up in the Afghan capital Kabul, killing a French soldier with Nato's International Security Assistance Force, the French military and police said. AFP

KABUL—NATO WARPLANES KILLED six Afghan civilians, most of them women and children, in an air strike during a battle with Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan, a district governor told AFP Friday.

The International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) admitted civilians were killed in the attack in the southern province of Helmand but it did not say how many died.

Isaf said the civilians were killed Wednesday but the district governor said they died Thursday. Despite the confusion, the incident appeared to be same, as both said it had taken place in Gereshk district.

District governor Abdul Manaf told AFP Taliban fighters had been sheltering among villagers, who were being used as "human shields."

"The Nato forces called for air support. At this time the Taliban had fled the area and due to aerial bombing six civilians, mostly women and kids, were killed," he said.

In a statement, the 37-nation Isaf said that Taliban fighters had attacked its soldiers from a compound and an air strike was called in against them.

"Isaf was unaware of civilians in the vicinity of the target and unfortunately it appears that a number of noncombatants were caught in the attack and killed."

The Nato-led coalition said it had opened an investigation into the deaths in Helmand, which is the most violent region in Afghanistan and its main opium-growing area.

Isaf troops were operating in that part of Helmand as part of a new operation launched on Wednesday to clear Taliban out of the area.

More than 50,000 US- and Nato-led troops are battling the resurgent Taliban Islamist militia and are under pressure from rights groups and the government to avoid civilian deaths during their operations.

More than 700 civilians have been killed this year, around half in Taliban attacks and half in action by Afghan and international military forces.

The Taliban have waged an insurgency since being ousted from power nearly six years ago in a US-led invasion. *AFP*

UK cracks down on 'cyber bullying'

LONDON—A NEW CRACKDOWN ON "cyber bullying" was unveiled by the government on Friday in a bid to stamp out the growing problem in schools.

The new measures aim to protect pupils and teachers from abusive text messages, phone calls and e-mails and offensive or violent video clips posted on the Internet.

More than a third of teenagers aged between 12 and 15 has fallen victim to cyber bullies, according to government figures.

Unions say teachers have been "belittled and bullied" by offensive comments on the Internet.

Ministers hope to tackle the problem with an online antibullying campaign. The government issued tips on how to beat the bullies and have released a video for teachers.

Schools Secretary Ed Balls said any form of bullying was unacceptable.

"Cyber bullying is a particularly insidious type of bullying as it can follow young people wherever they go and the anonymity that it seemingly affords to the perpetrator can make it even more stressful for the victim," he said in a statement. *Reuters*

Pakistanis reject Osama's 'interference'

BIN Laden in a video last week, his first public showing in three years. AFP

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN—A CALL from Osama bin Laden for holy war against Pakistan's president and army found resonance on Friday among some in Pakistan's conservative northwest but others rejected the cry for jihad as interference.

In a Web audio tape issued on Thursday, a speaker purported to be Bin Laden vowed to retaliate against "infidel" President Pervez Musharraf, his government and army for an assault on a radical mosque in the capital in July.

A militant cleric leading a Taliban-style movement and about 100 of his followers were killed when commandos stormed the Red Mosque compound to clear out gunmen.

Al-Qaida has in the past called for the assassination of Musharraf whose war-on-terror alliance with the United States is deeply unpopular in Pakistan, even among the vast majority who abhor militant violence.

"It's now obligatory on Pakistanis to wage jihad against Musharraf because he's pitting Muslims against Muslims for the sake of America," said Iqbal Hussain, a car washer in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

Suicide attacks and abductions of members of the security forces have surged since the Red Mosque assault and the collapse of a 10-month peace pact in the North Waziristan area on the Afghan border.

"What's going on in Waziristan and the frequent suicide attacks are the result of Musharraf's policies. He doesn't want to give up power," Hussain said.

Abdullah Khan, a shopkeeper in the town of Chaman on the Afghan border said Musharraf had turned Pakistan into a "slave of America."

"Osama has given the right message because Musharraf is working on America's agenda in Pakistan. He's killing people in the name of the fight against terrorism," Khan said.

"The people should stand up against General Musharraf and remove him to stop Mulsim bloodshed."

But such views were far from universal.

"Musharraf's government is an internal issue of Pakistan. Osama bin Laden shouldn't interfere," said Abdul Ghani, 40, a Chaman car mechanic.

Another Chaman resident, Hafiz Abdul Qayyum, said Bin Laden didn't believe in democracy.

"General Musharraf's policies are against Islam and Muslims but Pakistan is a democratic country and Musharraf should be removed through democratic means," he said.

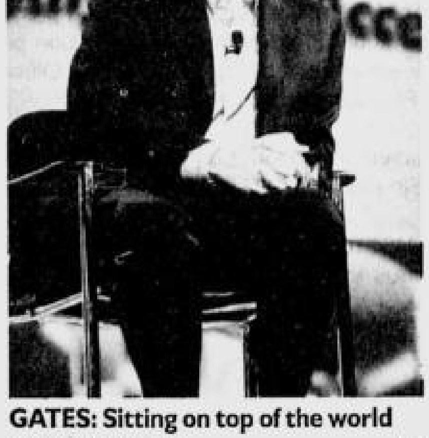
Peshawar shopkeeper Gulfaraz said he did not support Bin Laden: "He just wants to create chaos which is un-Islamic."

In Lahore, Pakistan's cultural center, Bin Laden's call for jihad was widely condemned.

"Osama has no right to issue such statements," said Punjab University student Maryam Ali.

Government official Sohail Nasir said Bin Laden had much blood on his hands: "He's responsible for killing tens of thousands of Muslims around the world and wants to get more Muslims killed through such statements." *Reuters*

America's billionaires get a lot richer



GATES: Sitting on top of the world with $59 billion. AFP

NEW YORK—AMERICA'S BILLIONaires have just grown richer, a lot richer, according to this year's list of the 400 wealthiest Americans published by Forbes Magazine on Friday.

Last year, having $1 billion would have bought you a place on the list. Now, the lowest ranked entrant has $300 million more than that.

The collective net worth of those listed this year has meanwhile risen $290 billion, despite jitters on the financial markets.

The top 10 spaces on the list were taken up by mostly familiar faces led by Microsoft founder Bill Gates with $59 billion, followed by investment guru Warren Buffett with $52 billion.

This year's biggest gainer was casino mogul Kirk Kerkorian, whose wealth increased $9 billion over the past year, earning him a spot on the top 10 for the first time.

Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page also appear in the top 10 for the first time with an estimated fortune of $18.5 billion each.

Among those losing ground were the Walton family, the founders of retailing giant Wal-Mart, who left the top 10 for the first time since 1989.

Some 270 of those on the list are self-made, while the youngest is 33-year-old hedge fund manager John Arnold. Men overwhelmingly dominated the list again, with only 39 women appearing on the list this year. *AFP*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Various Philippine Navy Housing Projects

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time			Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
		Submission/ Opening of Eligibility Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Officers and its Site Development and Utility at NFWM – 1 & NFWM – 2	P 20,704,255.20	Oct. 8, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 16, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 29, 2007 9:00 AM	P 9,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Officers and its Site Development and Utility at NFNL	P 10,352,127.60				P 6,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Officers and its Site Development and Utility at NFSL	P 10,352,127.60				P 6,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at NFW	P 8,081,122.60				P 3,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at NFSL	P 8,081,122.60				P 3,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit Condominium for Officers and its Site Development and Utility at MBZ-1	P 10,352,127.60				P 6,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at NFWM-3 & NFWM-4	P 16,162,245.20	Oct. 8, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 16, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 29, 2007 9:00 AM	P 6,000.00
Construction of One (1) Condominium for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at BNS-4	P 14,693,620.25				P 6,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at NFEM	P 8,081,122.60				P 3,000.00
Construction of One (1) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel and its Site Development and Utility at MBZ-2	P 8,081,122.60				P 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Various Philippine Navy Housing Projects**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their **LOIs** on or before ***October 5, 2007*** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***October 8, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. The PN BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Requirements and Forms at PN BAC Secretariat, Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, upon the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 300.00** ***(fee for the Eligibility Requirements and Forms).*** Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee before ***October 8, 2007, 9:00 AM.***
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Secretariat, Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **0800H – 1700H** on **Monday to Friday.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 16, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at the ***Office of the Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.***
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before ***October 29, 2007, 9:00 AM.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount specified below.
    - Manager's Check equivalent to 1% of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to 2.5% of ABC.

    Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on ***October 29, 2007, 9:00 AM.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. Completion of the Works is required as indicated above of the Calendar Days.
9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel. Nr.: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel. Nr.: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) ADRIANO V MUNAR JR
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PN BAC

(PDI – September 22, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

French PM says Iran seeks bomb, wants new sanctions

PARIS—FRENCH PRESIDENT Nicolas Sarkozy directly accused Iran of seeking a nuclear bomb and threw his weight behind "stronger sanctions" which are to be discussed Friday by the major powers.

SARKOZY AFP

Sarkozy said that France does not want a war with Iran but charged in a prime time television interview late Thursday that "Iran is trying to obtain an atomic bomb."

"That is unacceptable and I tell the French people it is unacceptable."

US President George W. Bush also said Thursday he hoped the Islamic Republic would bow to mounting global pressure and warned he was "not going to tolerate" a nuclear-armed Iran, which denies it is trying to develop an atomic weapon.

Tensions have been heightened this week by comments by French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner who warned that a war with Iran was possible.

Sarkozy distanced himself from Kouchner's statement and put the emphasis on the need for diplomatic punishment of Iran.

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States are to meet in Washington on Friday to discuss a third package of tighter UN sanctions against Iran if it does not suspend its uranium enrichment.

"How do we convince (Iran) to renounce this project? Just as the international community convinced North Korea and Libya to renounce theirs. Through discussion, through dialogue, through sanctions," Sarkozy said.

"If sanctions are not enough, I want stronger sanctions," Sarkozy said, while repeating that Iran had a right to civilian nuclear technology.

The Iranian nuclear question "is an extremely difficult affair, but France does not want a war," Sarkozy said, referring to Kouchner's earlier comments.

Kouchner had said "we have to prepare for the worst, and the worst is war." He has since insisted the statement was misunderstood.

"I would not have used the word war, and he himself has explained his comments," Sarkozy said.

France has taken an increasingly strong line in the dispute over Iran's uranium enrichment program, which the United States and its allies fear is an effort to build an atomic bomb.

Alongside of the Washington meeting of the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany, Kouchner is to discuss Iran at the White House on Friday.

After weeks of escalating US rhetoric on Iran, Bush insisted that "the objective, of course, is to solve this peacefully."

"I am hopeful that we can convince the Iranian regime to give up any ambitions it has in developing a weapons program, and do so peacefully. That ought to be the objective of any diplomacy," he said. *AFP*

Scientists report severe retreat of Arctic ice

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA—THE CAP of floating sea ice on the Arctic Ocean, which retreats under summer's warmth, this year shrank more than one million square miles—or six Californias—below the average minimum area reached in recent decades, scientists reported on Thursday.

The minimum ice area for this year, 1.59 million square miles, appeared to be reached on Sunday. The ice is spreading again under the influence of the deep Arctic chill that settles in as the sun drops below the horizon at the North Pole for six months, starting Friday.

The findings were reported by the National Snow and Ice Data Center, in Boulder, Colo., and posted online at www.nsidc.org.

While satellite tracking of polar sea ice has been done only since 1979, several ice experts who have studied Russian and Alaskan records going back many decades said that the ice retreat this year was probably unmatched in the 20th century, including during a warm period in the 1930s.

The ice retreat has been particularly striking this year. The Alaskan side of the Arctic Ocean has stretches of thousands of square miles of open water; the fabled Northwest Passage through the islands of northern Canada was free of ice for weeks; and the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans north of Russia was nearly clear a week ago, with one small clot of ice around a group of Siberian islands. *NYT*

BISHOP Li Shan walks out of the Southern Catholic Church following the appointment ceremony in Beijing on Sept. 21. REUTERS

China ordains new bishop of Beijing

BEIJING—CHINA'S OFFICIAL Catholic church on Friday installed a new Vatican-approved bishop of Beijing in a sign of quiet dialogue between China and the Holy See despite the lack of diplomatic relations.

The Holy See had blessed the choice, even though no formal Vatican approval was announced at the ordination, officials and experts said.

"Father Joseph Li Shan was ordained the bishop of Beijing in a ceremony held here this morning," Sister Yu Shuqin, a spokesperson at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, said.

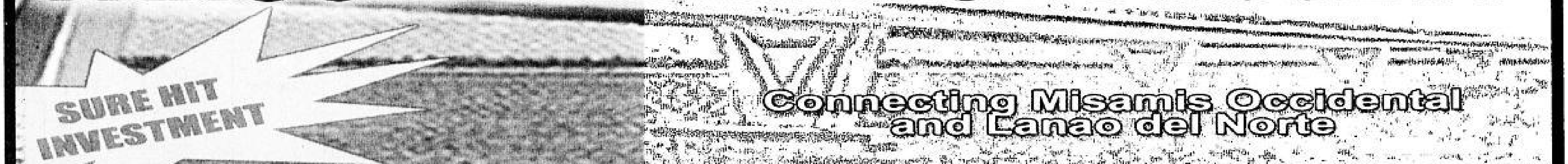
The agreement over the bishop between Beijing and the Vatican signals increasing conciliation between China's atheist leaders and a Holy See that has sought greater communion with growing numbers of Chinese believers.

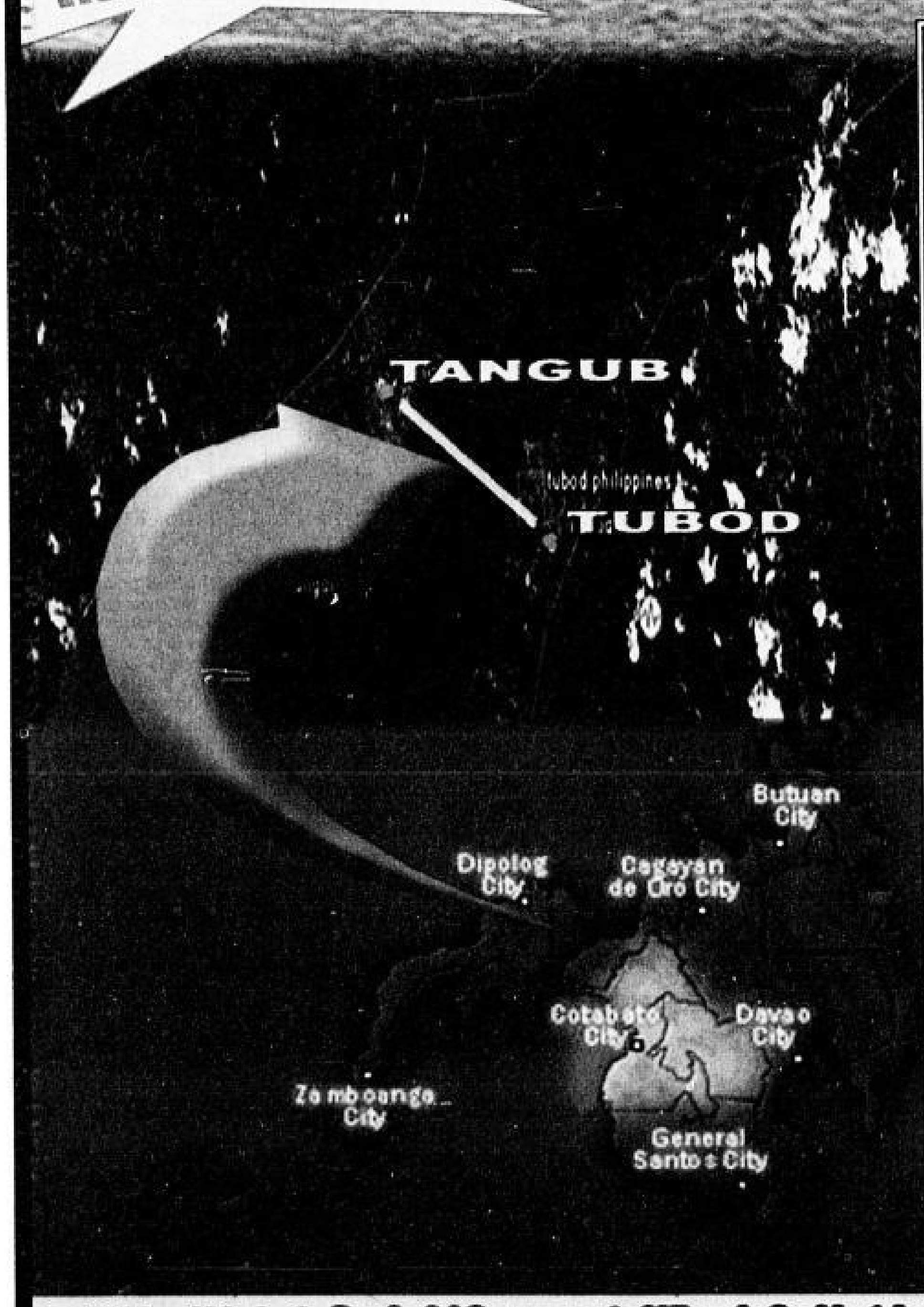
Relations between the Vatican and China have been rocky since Beijing severed ties in 1951 in anger over the Holy See's diplomatic recognition of Taiwan.

In 1957, China set up the Patriotic Association, which formally oversees China's officially registered Catholics, estimated at numbering about five million.

However, up to 10 million "underground" Chinese Catholics pledge allegiance to the Pope, worship in unofficial churches and are often subject to police and government harassment. *AFP*

PANGUIL BAY BRIDGE PROJECT





This Ad is paid for by the Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental as party to the Panguil Bay Bridge Development Consortium.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines , through the Department of Public Works and Highways, invites interested participants to the Build-Transfer-and Operate (BTO) tendering of the:

NAME OF THE PROJECT : PANGUIL BAY BRIDGE PROJECT
PROVINCE : MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AND LANAO DEL NORTE

SCOPE OF WORK : The project involves 1) the financing, design, construction, maintenance and operation, through the BTO scheme, of a bridge with approximate length of 2,360 m and approach road of 1,240 m cross the Panguil Bay between Tubod, Lanao del Norte and Tangub City, Misamis Occidental; 2) Mangrove conservation in the vicinity of the bridge site; and 3) Right-of-way acquisition.

2. This will be implemented through the BTO scheme as provided for in RA 6957, as amended by RA 7718, also known as the BOT Law, with the Government providing a maximum cash subsidy of 900 Million and proponent to finance the balance of the project cost.

3. Any individual, partnership, corporation or firm, whether local or foreign, including joint venture or consortia of local, foreign or local and foreign firms, subject to the limits set under the provisions of RA 7718, may apply for prequalification and, if prequalified, participate in the bidding for said project.

4. Prequalification forms will be issued to prospective applications starting October 02, 2007 at the Procurement Office of the Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, upon presentation of their Letter of Intent and receipt of non- refundable payment of P2,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished prequalification documents should not be later than 10:00 AM, November 14, 2007. Prequalification documents will be opened at 2:00 PM, on the same date.

5. The DPWH will notify all prequalified and predisqualified applicants on December 04, 2007. Bid documents will be issued on January 04, 2008 to prequalified bidders upon presentation of the receipt of non-refundable payment of P20,000.00. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Procurement Office for Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila on February 4, 2008 at 9:30 AM.

6. The deadline for submission of bids is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on April 04, 2008 at the Procurement Office for Civil Works (POCW), 5th Floor, DPWH Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. This bids will be opened at 2:00 PM on the same day.

7. The DPWH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) DIMAS S SOGUILON
Assistant Secretary and Chairman
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
(BAC) for Civil Works
(Regions IX, X, XI, XII and XIII)

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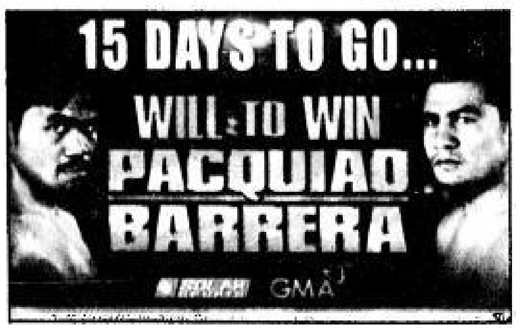

15 DAYS TO GO...
WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO
BARRERA
GMA

Indian GM rips Antonio for lead

Standings after three rounds:

3 points—G. Gopal (India), S. Megaranto (Indonesia); 2.5—Z. Jun (China), A. Kunte (India), Z.Jianchao (China); 2.0—**S. Yap (RP), R. Antonio (RP), D. Laylo (RP)**, U. Adianto (Indonesia), E. Moradiabadi (Iran), M. Al-Modiahki (Qatar), M. Al-Sayed (Qatar), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), T. H. Thong (Vietnam); 1.5—**O. Dimakiling (RP)**, E. Maghami (Iran), W. Yang (China), A. Bagheri (Iran), M. Ardeshi (Iran); 1.0—**B. Nadera (RP), R. Legaspi (RP), R. Tolentino (RP)**, N. Hua (China), W. Goh (China), N. Dung (Vietnam), P. Grinath (India), B. Lalith (India), B. Bayarmandakh (Mongolia), K. Russel (PGN)

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—INDIA'S G.N. GOPAL PUT another dagger into the heart of Philippine chess last night, stamping his mark in the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championships at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

The 18-year-old newly minted grandmaster beat GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio for his third straight win and a share of the lead with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto in the qualifying tournament for the World Cup in November.

Gopal, the first GM to come out of Kerala province, took the scalp of Antonio in 35 moves of a Pirc defense, duplicating his conquest of GM Eugene Torre Thursday night and climbing to 3.0 points.

It was the same total posted by Megaranto, who pounced on a weak move by Filipino International Master Darwin Laylo in the middle game to match Gopal's perfect slate.

Handling black, Antonio absorbed his first defeat after winning his first two games, the second coming at the expense of Gopal's countryman, GM Chakkravarthy Deepan, after a five-hour encounter Thursday night.

FILIPINO Barlo Nadera plays a move against Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai. The match ended in a draw.

GMs Abhijit Kunte and Zhao Jun of India played to a quick draw and were lodged at 2.5 points in the company of Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao, who downed Iranian GM Amir Bagheri.

Laylo, who is returning after serving a six-month suspension slapped by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, remained at 2.0 points like Antonio.

They were joined by rising Cebuano star Kim Steven Yap, who stunned Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung in 30 moves of a Petroff defense.

Nguyan was the first GM victim of the 18-year-old Yap, son of international arbiter Lincoln and a sophomore linguistics student at University of San Carlos.

Teen sensation Wesley So, who beat Yap for the National Juiors crown last May, was also locked in a tight battle against No. 2 seed and fellow 1.5-pointer GM Zhang Pengxiang of China.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua, also with 1.5 points, is trying to extract the full point against Malaysian Open champion Li Chao, also of China.

So had a rook and knight against Zhang's rook and bishop.

Pacesetting Chinese GMs Yu Shaoteng and Wang Hao are still battling at the top board. The winner of the match will share the lead with Gopal.

A draw would relegate both Yu and Wang to a share of third spot at 2.5 points.

Turin Olympian Oliver Dimakiling drew with Iranian Fide Master Mehrdad Ardeshi and was at 1.5 points.

Bad luck continued to hound IM Ronald Bancod as he fell to his third straight defeat against Sri Lankan M.K. A Russel.

The 17-nation, 72-player tournament is being held to determine Asia's 10 representatives to the World Chess Cup in Khanty-Mansiyk, Russia, later this year.

PBA all set for big bang

By June Navarro

WITH THE STARS back and a new breed of promising rookies coming in, the Philippine Basketball Association has every reason to be optimistic with the coming season.

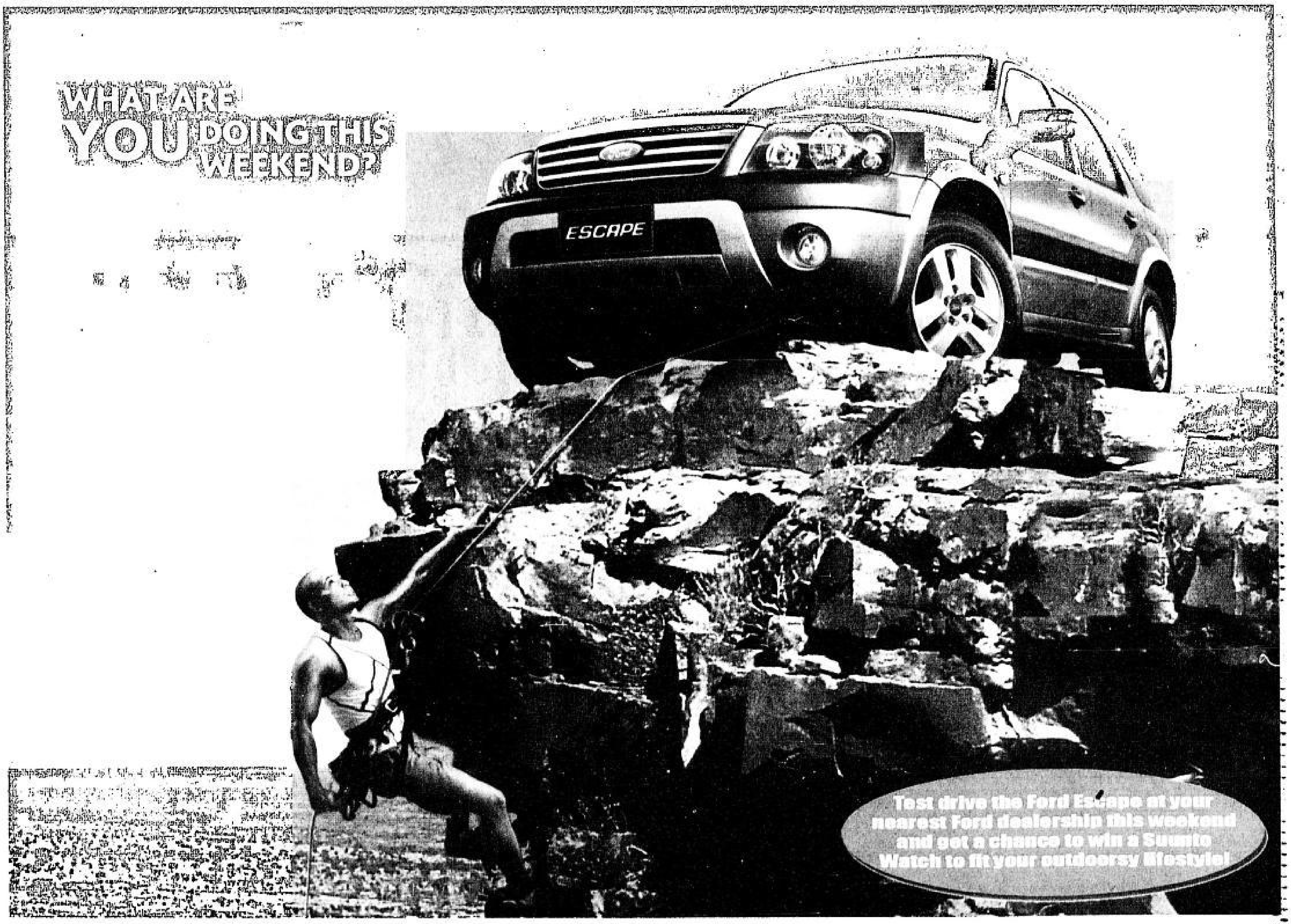
"Just like the previous one, I'm positive that the league will again have another successful season," said PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios.

Players loaned to the national team will return to their respective squads, with the influx of rookies adding to the excitement being generated by the league.

Defending champion Barangay Ginebra welcomes back the backcourt duo of Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand while Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Renren Ritualo return to Talk 'N Text.

San Miguel Beer will get back Dondon Hontiveros and Danny Seigle while Red Bull links up with Mick Pennisi anew. Kerby Raymundo (Purefoods) Tony Dela Cruz (Alaska), Kelly Williams (Sta. Lucia) and Ranidel De Ocampo (Air21) will also rejoin their teams.

The 2007-2008 season opens Oct. 14 at the Araneta Coliseum via the Philippine Cup, which is expected to end on Feb. 11.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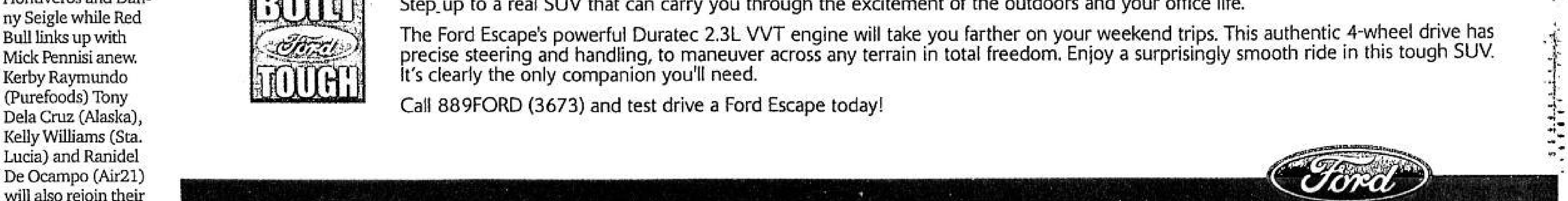
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UP alumni pushing for Lipa's former players

ROMY HOMILLADA

JOE LIPA: No replacement yet

By Jasmine W. Payo

A DAY AFTER UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines gave coach Joe Lipa the pink slip, alumni groups were pushing for two of the temperamental coach's former wards, Eric Altamirano and Ronnie Magsanoc, to take his place.

School officials said they will name the coach early to give him time to prepare for the next UAAP season, which coincides with UP's centennial celebration, but have yet to begin their search for Lipa's replacement.

"I recommended for [Lipa's early] termination because of the centennial year," said Hercules Callanta, dean of the College of Human Kinetics, who wants the team to be competitive in the 2008 season. "The next coach will be hard pressed for a result. We want [the new coach] to have the luxury of time."

The school, though, is still awaiting word from UP chancellor Sergio Cao regarding the status of Lipa.

Although Callanta recommended that Lipa be replaced after a winless season, the decision will only be final once it is ratified by Cao.

"Although the recommendation is already a big step, it still has to be ratified," said a school source.

"The chancellor should have an action based on his own decision," said Callanta. "We just have to wait for his action."

Callanta said the school doesn't have a list of candidates yet, although several names have already floated.

"We haven't started anything," said Callanta. "No one is being eyed, no one is being sought after. All are speculations."

But alumni groups are pressing for Magsanoc and Altamirano, both members of Lipa's 1986 championship squad, the only UP team to win a UAAP title.

The name of Allan Gregorio was also floated but the Air21 assistant mentor respectfully asked that he be taken off whatever list because he is eyeing a PBL stint.

The Maroons wrapped up the elimination round with a 0-14 record marked by horrendous blowout losses.

UE Warriors making good use of long break

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER PLAYING JUST ABOUT EVERY TYPE OF GAME ON THE way to an elimination-round sweep, this powerhouse doesn't mind playing the waiting one.

GAME SUNDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Santo Tomas

The University of the East Warriors are putting to good use the 20-day break they earned by keeping themselves in shape as they wait for a Finals opponent in the UAAP men's basketball competition.

"The boys are practicing hard," UE coach Dindo Pumaren said yesterday at the Scoop session at Kamayan Padre Faura.

"I've been pushing them. The aggressiveness is still there."

In a rare display of dominance, the Warriors captured the first championship berth as a bonus for sweeping their 14 assignments in the elimination round.

But the incentive comes with a long break as three teams dispute the last Finals slot in a stepladder semifinals—one prolonged by a pair of playoff matches that determined the flow of the stepladder.

Third-ranked Ateneo and No. 4 University of Santo Tomas collide in a knockout match this Sunday, with the winner advancing opposite No. 2 La Salle.

Ateneo dropped to the No. 3 seed after blowing an assignment against National University in its last game and then losing to La Salle in a playoff for No. 2. UST copped the No. 4 slot and the right to square off against the No. 3 team in sudden death by eliminating Far Eastern U also in a playoff.

The Archers will face the winner of the Ateneo-UST tussle carrying the twice-to-beat edge.

And the last team standing will face the Warriors in Game 1 of the best-of-three title series on Oct. 4.

"We're happy to be in the Finals right away," said Pumaren. "It's better that we're just waiting instead of still fighting it out."

But Pumaren noted that his Warriors have been paying attention to the remaining teams.

"Any of the three teams will be tough," he said. "They all have experience playing in the Finals."

The focus, he said, is to stay in shape and to keep the competitive rhythm when the title series starts.

ELMER Espiritu and the UE Red Warriors don't mind waiting for their opponent in the coming UAAP championship. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP beach volley pair boosts Olympic bid

By June Navarro

DETERMINED: Pascua (left) and Ilustre

BEACH VOLLEYBALL standouts, Diane Pascua and Heidi Illustre are working doubly hard to fulfill their dream of playing in the Olympics.

The Filipino-American tandem now ranks No. 42 in the international women's circuit, 18 notches below the 24-team qualifying standard set by the 2008 Beijing Olympics organizers.

But an official of the Asian Volleyball Confederation said that an abundance of overseas tournaments between now and the Olympics gives Ilustre and Pascua enough time to cover the deficit.

"There are still 18 legs before the qualifying ends in July next year," said Tony Liao, AVC board member and technical official for beach volleyball in the Southeast Asian and Asian Games.

"They (Pacua and Ilustre) are trying their best to make it and we're not losing hope."

The Fil-Ams, bronze medalists in the 2005 Manila SEAG, will start their climb in the Fortaleza, Brazil leg of the FIVB World Cup slated Sept. 26 to 29.

After their Brazilian stint, the duo will proceed to the United States for a respite before taking an Oct. 27 flight back to Manila, their final stop prior to the resumption of their Olympic bid.

The two are already booked to play in the Thailand and Hong Kong legs of the World Cup tour in November.

Pascua and Ilustre then vie at the Thailand SEAG, where they hope to clinch the Philippines' first gold medal in the event.

WBC convention needs Sulaiman KO punch

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—THE BOXING world wants an answer to this pressing puzzle on the happy state of boxing in the Philippines.

How did Manny Pacquiao and at least three other reigning Filipino world boxing champions succeed and manage to punctuate national pride despite the aweful absence of a unified boxing development program in the country?

This, you bet, is more baffling than the sight of poor, wretched Pinoys, who live and labor half-covered from the searing tropical sun, winning gold medals in exclusive, freezing winter Olympic disciplines.

Sorry, but there is yet no available guide to the secret behind the current Filipino success in world boxing.

* * *

Why? Because there's also no recorded scientific system detailing how and why Pacquiao, et al, have hit the jackpot.

Of course, this is not enough for cynics, mainly from south of the border here, to claim that the blazing brilliance of Filipino boxers in foreign arenas was the result of a cheap, lucky punch, or something of the sort.

Never. But should it come as a surprise if, say, the WBC Convention, set to start Nov. 11 at the Manila Hotel, also involved a curious peek into the mystery surrounding Philippine boxing?

For example, is the Games and Amusements Board, under the Office of Her Excellency, President Macapagal-Arroyo, going all out to invite the biggest names in world boxing—Ali, Frazier, Don King, De La Hoya, Tyson, etc.—to divert attention from government corruption, now again under the microscope due to the $329-million NBN deal with China, which got stalled and stunk under the table?

* * *

As was often the case, the annual WBC is sure to deteriorate into a forgettable get-together among the greatest back-slappers (ego-trippers) in the prizefight world.

But, come to think of it, did they have to look far for someone to save the WBC Convention from total irrelevance?

Not anymore. Smiling, if not burping, at the corner is Don Jose Sulaiman, the pudgy, unsinkable old ship of a WBC president who was last sighted in Manila in 1996.

Like a returning pontiff, the doe-eyed Don Jose could yawn and, in the process, promptly bestow distinguished approval on the opulent WBC gathering.

Of course, this time, Sulaiman must make sure he brings with him the blueprint of a boxing development program which he generously detailed in another convention in Bangkok in the mid-'90s (was it 1994?), when the WBC honored the late Papa Sarreal, international match-maker non-pareil, with a lifetime achievement award.

* * *

Anyway, in case Sulaiman would wonder, he must be told, that Pacquiao was not in any way a product of the hero factory he had proposed to an international audience in that Bangkok confab.

For the record, Pacquiao has made it on his own. He left the Philippines, wiggled out of a primitive boxing mould (if there's at least one), and enrolled at the Wild Card gym courtesy of Rod Nazario, his surrogate father.

It's history how the Pacman, truly raw, blossomed and blazed into a full-scale boxing treasure, no mere gem, under Roach.

To confirm the utter need for a scientific national boxing program, Roach would recommend that a national boxing academy be set up in the Philippines, preferrably in Manila.

However, the government of President Arroyo would not hear anything of the nonsense.

Odd enough, Pacquiao went on the become an Arroyo favorite, whose victories were wildly celebrated at the Palace, in a clear bid to inject verve and vitamin to the President's sagged ratings.

* * *

Listen again, please. The Sulaiman formula had looked plain enough. Put up a foundation, construct or use an available gymnasium—similar to the one, he said, they had set up in Mexico, provide this with necessary personnel, equipment, facilities—trainers, doctors, psychologists, fight films, lecturers, everything.

Then open the venue to the public, mainly poor, out-of-school kids, who could bid for a decent life only by entering the cruel world of boxing.

Needless to say, there should be strict screening, monitoring—meaning not every other hungry, homeless bum could walk in.

The way Don Jose had pictured the poor man's boxing academy, it must've churned off breed after breed of enviable Mexican ring warriors equipped with sound fighting basics.

* * *

A hero factory, indeed. But hold it, please.

In order for Don Jose to endure as the perfect saviour of the forthcoming WBC Convention, he must at the same time extract a commitment from the Philippine government that it would copy the tested formula.

Sulaiman could do the bargaining during an expected audience at Malacañang.

Or he could also ask the great Manny Pacquiao to set up a foundation to fund such an academy, with the help of sponsors.

Here's hoping Señor Sulaiman is listening.

After all, this is the only safe way he could save the 45th WBC Convention from blending ahead with the famous Manila sunset.

LGBA derby round 3 today

ROUND THREE OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby series, which has attracted 195 entries so far, gets under way today at San Juan Coliseum.

The first of more than 100 fights starts at 11 a.m.

After two gruelling rounds, 15 participants have entered the finals with three wins each, among them Mayor Cito Alberto, Rocky Ilagan of Mindoro, Dong Chung of Rizal, Mayor Enriquez, Honey Yu of Quezon Province, Nelson Uy and Arman Santos.

Competition shifts to Araneta Coliseum on Monday for the first day of the 4-stag championship round.

Valle-Millares, Arpilleda-Punzalan gain 10-ball doubles semis

THE PAIRS OF GANDY VALLE-JAY JAY MILLARES AND VICtor Arpilleda-Fidel Punzalan downed their respective foes in constrasting fashion late Thursday to advance to the semifinals of the SMC Scotch Doubles 10-ball tournament at the Elbowroom in Metrowalk, Pasig City.

Valle, a former leg winner in the Asian 9-ball Tour, and Millares defeated Warren Kiamco and Rodrigo Geronimo, 9-5, to set up a semifinal clash with the Negros Billiards Stable tandem of Roberto Dy and Jech Jech Limen, who demolished Godofredo Ducanes and Ernesto Sarmiento, 9-1.

Semifinal tiffs were still being played at press time last night.

The Jakarta-based Arpilleda and Punzalan clustered three racks to score a come-from-behind 9-8 victory over Leonardo Didal and Eric Rodriguez. Arpilleda and Punzalan forged a duel with Carlo Biado and Mark Mendoza, who bested Jomar de Ocampo and Jess Dacoro, 9-4. ***Marlon Bernardino, Contributor***

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following personnel: Lot 1 - Five (5) Data Encoders Lot 2 - Twenty-three (23) Plant Workers
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Lot 1 - P11,500.00/personnel/mo. or P483,000.00 Lot 2 - P11,500.00/personnel/mo. or P3,174,000.00
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project awarded and completed from Y2005 to present with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract of the lot/s to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 24 September 2007 (up to 2:00PM only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	12 October 2007, 2:00PM
3. Opening of Bids	30 October 2007, 2:00PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the ABC/s of the lot/s to be bid, whichever is higher, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – September 22, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292

September 22, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position	Nationality or Citizenship
1.	WYNTRON, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Taeil Kim	Production Senior Manager	Korean
2.	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION Y.C. James Yen Ctr., Biga I, Silang, Cavite	Mr. Jitendra Kumar Sinha	Program Specialist Water/Watershed Management	Indian
3.	NXP SEMICONDUCTORS PHILS., INC. LISP I, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Onno Frits Buijs	Project Manager – STAR/PDM	Dutch
4.	TAESUNG POLYMER PARTS CORP. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kiyoung Kim	President	Korean
5.	INTEL TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. GBP, Brgy. Javalera, Gen. Tnas, Cavite	Mr. Jose R. Yow	Design Manager	American

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–September 22, 2007)

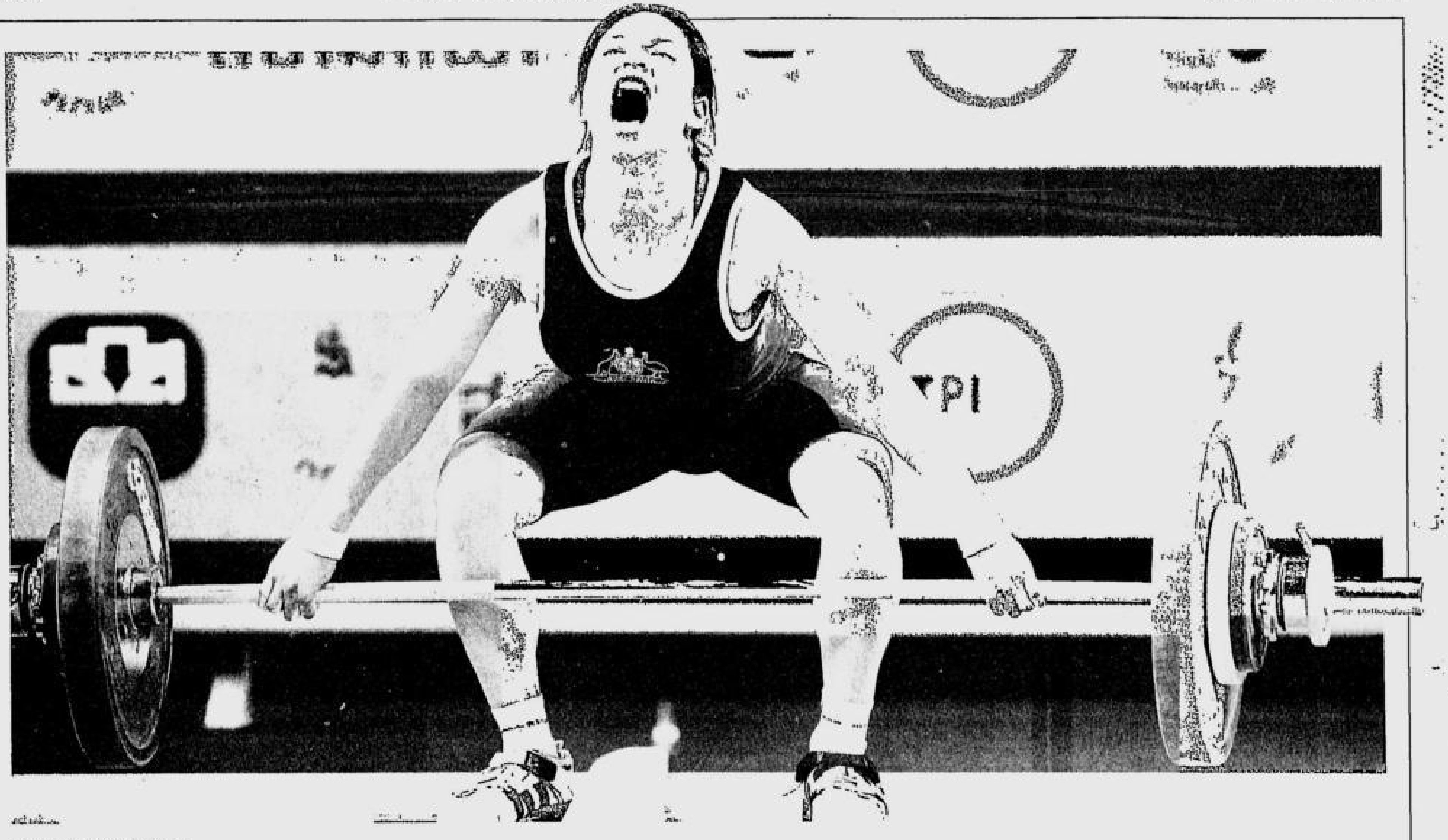
Games torch not welcome in Taiwan

TAIPEI, TAIWAN—NEGOTIATIONS BETween Taiwan and China on the torch relay route for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games are at a dead end, and the torch will not come to Taiwan, international and Taiwan Olympic officials said.

The announcements on Friday put an end to a five-month saga that began when Taiwan turned down a proposal by the Beijing Organizing Committee to place the island next to the Chinese territory of Hong Kong on the prestigious relay route.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949. Beijing claims the island as its own, and works hard to deny it any trappings of sovereignty. By contrast the Taiwanese government of President Chen Shui-bian tries just as hard to emphasize its separateness, and makes no secret of its eventual goal of formal independence.

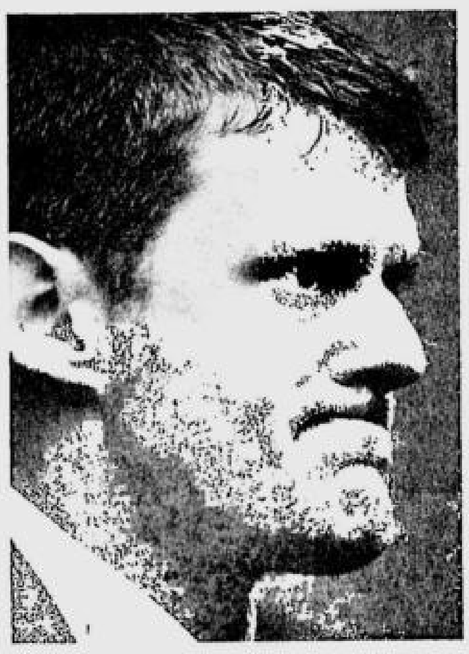
In rejecting the torch route, Taiwan officials said the Taiwan-Hong Kong contiguity made the island appear to be part of be part of China, despite their separate status. It said it would only participate when China stopped "downgrad(ing) Taiwanese sovereignty." *AP*



SUPER WOMAN
Australia's Seen Lee attempts her third lift in the snatch phase of the Women's 58 kg (128 lb) Group B competition Friday at the Royal World Weightlifting championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand. AP

Landis stripped of crown

Dope test pins down Tour de France champ



FLOYD Landis still insists he is innocent of doping charges. AP

PARIS—FLOYD LANDIS LOST HIS TItle. The anti-doping system that did him in received a warning.

Arbitrators voted to strip the championship from the 2006 Tour de France winner Thursday, upholding the results of a test that showed Landis used synthetic testosterone to fuel his spectacular comeback victory.

Pat McQuaid, leader of cycling's ruling body, said rules dictate that Landis can be stripped of his title immediately. That makes Oscar Pereiro, who finished second last year, the official winner.

But the decision, which bans Landis from cycling through Jan. 30, 2009, also spelled out the numerous problems with the system and the French lab that analyzed Landis' urine.

Not all the criticism came in the scathing dissent written by arbitrator Chris Campbell.

"If such practices continue, it may well be that in the future, an error like this could result in the dismissal" of a positive finding by the lab, wrote Patrice Brunet and Richard McLaren in the majority opinion.

Landis seized on these points to claim he is still the rightful winner of the race, and that he was nothing more than a pawn in a bigger game that led to the arbitration. He has a month to decide whether he will take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport—his last line of appeal.

He didn't feel he'd get a fair shot there, either.

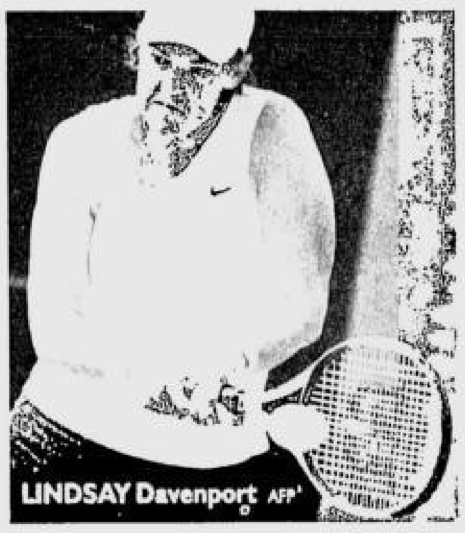
"I have to assess whether a system that corrupt is worth subjecting myself to again," Landis told ESPN.com. "I don't have any reason to believe that CAS is any more sincere."

In an earlier statement, Landis said "I am innocent, and we proved I am innocent."

US Anti-Doping Agency CEO Travis Tygart applauded the decision.

"Today's ruling is a victory for all clean athletes and everyone who values fair and honest competition," Tygart said.

The decision comes more than a year after Landis' stunning comeback in Stage 17 of the 2006 Tour, one that many people said couldn't be done without some kind of outside help. *AP*



LINDSAY Davenport AFP

Davenport return: So far, so good

BEIJING—COMEBACK MOM LINDSAY Davenport struggled through a rough opening set on Friday against Elena Dementieva before taking charge to win the match and book a spot in the semifinals at the China Open.

Dementieva, the fourth seed here, did herself no favors in the 7-6 (7/1), 6-1 loss to Davenport, giving the American too many free points with her notoriously dodgy serve by striking 12 double faults.

Once Davenport put her game into high gear, it was all over for the Russian, who was broken six times during the 90-minute match.

The former number one, who won in Bali last weekend, plays Saturday's semifinal against either second seed Jelena Jankovic or Japan's Akiko Morigami. *AFP*

Lady Pirates eye WNCAA finals berth

DEFENDING BASKETBALL CHAMPIon and host Lyceum Lady Pirates gun for the first finals slot tomorrow in the 38th WNCAA senior basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

After topping the elimination round with a 5-0 record, Lyceum battles No. 4 World Citi Colleges at noon needing only a win to advance to the Senior A best-of-three finals.

The other senior A semis match pits No. 2 College of St. Benilde, whose only loss in five matches was inflicted by Lyceum, against No. 4 St. Scho at 1:30 p.m.

In junior basketball today, unbeaten Chiang Kai Shek College seeks a sixth straight win against St. Francis of Assisi College at 2:30 p.m.

The first junior futsal finalist may also be decided tomorrow at the Club 650 gym when defending champion De La Salle Zobel takes on San Beda College Alabang at 11 a.m.

DLSZ swept all their four elimination matches while SBCA wound up winless in the four-team field.

At the RTU gym, Emilio Aguinaldo College battles SBCA at 10 a.m., with a win giving the Taft-based spikers a six-game sweep of senior B volleyball.

Best-SBP semis action heats up

THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE BASKETBALL stars take centerstage tomorrow when the 2007 Milo-sponsored Best Center-Small Basketeers of the Philippines-Passerelle NCR leg holds its semifinal phase at the Xavier High School Gym.

After the ouster of defending champion San Beda College-A, a new champion will be crowned among last year's runner-up De La Salle Zobel, Xavier School, La Salle Greenhills and Ateneo de Manila.

Xavier, which ousted SBC-A with a 73-70 win in the quarterfinals, battles DLSZ, a 59-58 overtime winner over SBC-Alabang.

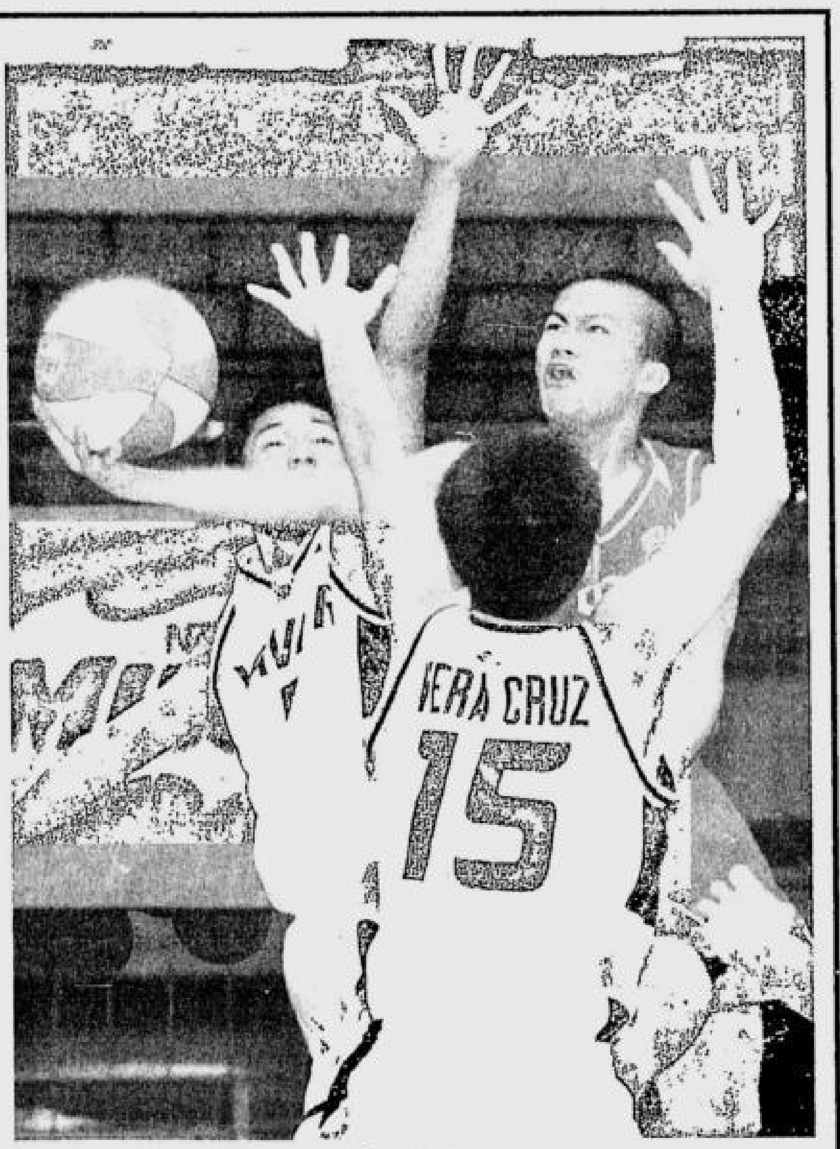
LSGH and Ateneo figure in the other semis encounter. LSGH ousted SBC-B, 71-60, while Ateneo disposed of University of Santo Tomas, 62-46.

In the SBP division, LSGH continues its title retention bid with San Beda, Ateneo and Xavier providing the challenge.

The LSGH dribblers, who swept their eight matches in Group A, seek the first finals berth against San Beda, which finished second in Group B with a 6-1 card.

Disputing the other championship slot are Group B top qualifier Ateneo, which posted a 7-0 slate, and Group A No. 2 Xavier, holder of a 6-1 record after the eliminations.

The semifinal matches begin at 1 p.m.



SAN Beda's Candido Verzosa (center) charges to the basket despite Xavier School defenders Abram Abejaj Vera Cruz (right) and Daniel Mark Quiaoit blocking his path. Xavier ousted the defending SBP-Passerelle champion San Beda, 73-70.

Generals thwart Jaguars' UCAA semifinal bid

GAMES MONDAY (*EAC Sports Complex*)
10 a.m.—EAC vs La Salle-Dasmarinas
11:30 a.m.—St. Francis vs PSBA
1 p.m.—Las Piñas College vs Acsat
2:30 p.m.—UCN vs Olivarez College

THE DEFENDING CHAMPION EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals foiled the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars' semifinal bid yesterday in the sixth Universities and Colleges men's basketball tournament.

The Generals leaned on the heroics of Argel Mendoza and on their tight defense inside to turn back the Jaguars, 75-74, at the EAC Sports Complex.

Mendoza banged in two free throws with 46 seconds left, allowing the Generals to keep the upper hand at 75-72.

Jaguar Joebert Manguerra missed a trey in the ensuing play and was tackled by Gester Ebuen on his second three-point attempt with two seconds to go. Manguerra could have sent the contest into overtime, but he canned in only two of three charities off Ebuen's fourth foul.

The win was the Generals' eighth in 12 games, allowing them to keep up with the other semifinal contenders, Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings (9-2) and the St. Francis of Assisi College Doves (8-3).

The defeat left the Jaguars and the Las Piñas College Blue Lions, tied with 7-5 records, in a tight race for the last semifinal berth.

RJ Terez hit 21 points for the Blue Lions, who stayed in contention for the semifinals after walloping the Olivarez College Sea Lions, 84-77.

The Lightnings (9-2) moved into the solo lead last Wednesday after they waylaid the St. Francis of Assisi College Doves, 94-82.

Nikko Pupos showed the way for the Lightnings with 24 points, while Eric Suguitan tallied 12.

Pupos unloaded two treys with 3:17 left in the second period, as the Lightnings moved out of reach, 50-38.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston Red Sox (9)	90	63	.588	-
New York Yankees	88	64	.579	1.5
Toronto Blue Jays	77	75	.507	12.5
Baltimore Orioles	65	87	.428	24.5
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	63	90	.412	27.0
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Cleveland Indians (3)	90	62	.592	-
Detroit Tigers	83	70	.542	7.5
Minnesota Twins	75	77	.493	15.0
Kansas City Royals	66	86	.434	24.0
Chicago White Sox	66	87	.431	24.5
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Los Angeles Angels (1)	91	62	.595	-
Seattle Mariners	81	71	.533	9.5
Oakland Athletics	74	80	.481	17.5
Texas Rangers	70	83	.458	21.0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York Mets (9)	84	68	.553	-
Philadelphia Phillies	83	70	.542	1.5
Atlanta Braves	80	73	.523	4.5
Washington Nationals	68	85	.444	16.5
Florina Marlins	66	87	.431	18.5
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Chicago Clubs (9)	80	73	.523	-
Milwaukee Brewers	78	74	.513	1.5
St. Louis Cardinals	71	81	.467	8.5
Cincinnati Reds	70	83	.458	10.0
Houston Astros	67	86	.438	13.0
Pittsburgh Pirates	66	87	.431	14.0
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Arizona Diamondbacks (10)	86	67	.562	-
San Diego Padres	85	67	.559	0.5
Colorado Rockies	81	72	.529	5.0
Los Angeles Dodgers	79	74	.516	7.0
San Francisco Giants	67	86	.438	19.0

Fernando, Aunzo quit RP squad

By Musong R. Castillo

ANTHONY FERNANDO'S TEXT reply said it all.

Wedged in the middle of a quarrel between the National Golf Association of the Philippines and erstwhile benefactor ICTSI, Fernando and Ferdinand Aunzo yesterday followed their sponsor's orders and withdrew from the RP team set to compete in next month's Nomura Cup.

"*Sorry po, sir; akala ko po maglalaro lang ako ng golf dito* (I'm sorry, sir, but I thought I'd only be playing golf here)," Fernando, the newly crowned RP Amateur champion, said in the text message to NGAP official Caloy Coscoluella.

Fernando was replying to an NGAP appeal for him and Aunzo to reconsider.

James Ryan Lam, who finished 11th in the RP team tryouts three weeks ago, and former jungolf ace and one-time RP Am finalist Tonlits Asistio will take the places of Fernando and Aunzo in the team.

The NGAP and ICTSI had a falling out on Wednesday over the selection of players that would comprise the Nomura Cup team. The team composition did not sit well with ICTSI.

The NGAP had tapped Fernando, Aunzo, Mark Fernando and Jonel Ababa for the Taipei joust. But ICTSI insisted that Jay Bayron be sent in lieu of Ababa who, like Fernando, is a product of the National Caddies' Open (NCO) program.

The deadline for the submission of names of players for the Nomura Cup, scheduled in the first week of October, was yesterday, and Coscoluella was hoping that the NGAP and ICTSI could patch up their differences.

"We're not here to fight with ICTSI," Coscoluella told the INQUIRER on the phone. "But they must at least respect our decision because we are not doing this for anything else other than the betterment of (local) golf."

After the Nomura Cup, the Philippines will also see action in the Putra Cup, set at The Country Club in Laguna in November, and the Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December where it is the defending champion.

The port services giant ICTSI has bankrolled the training of some of the country's finest amateurs.

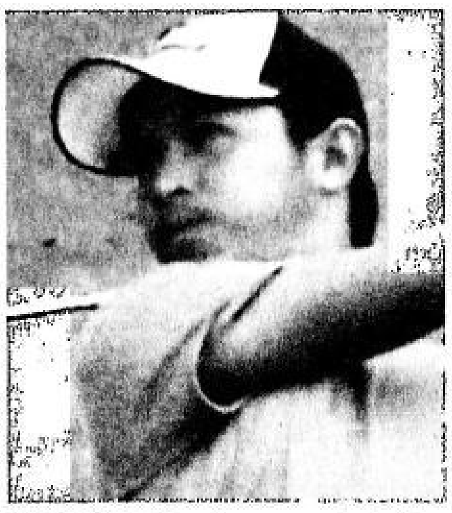
Ababa and Mark Fernando made it to the RP pool after finishing in the top six of the team qualifier at The Riviera, with Fernando tying Aunzo for top spot.

Instead of tapping the No. 7 qualifier at Riviera—17-year-old Paul Echavez or RP Am runner-up Mario Labajo—the NGAP picked Asistio and Lam.

"We think that Asistio and Lam are better prepared than the two (Echavez and Labajo)," Coscoluella said, explaining the NGAP decision.

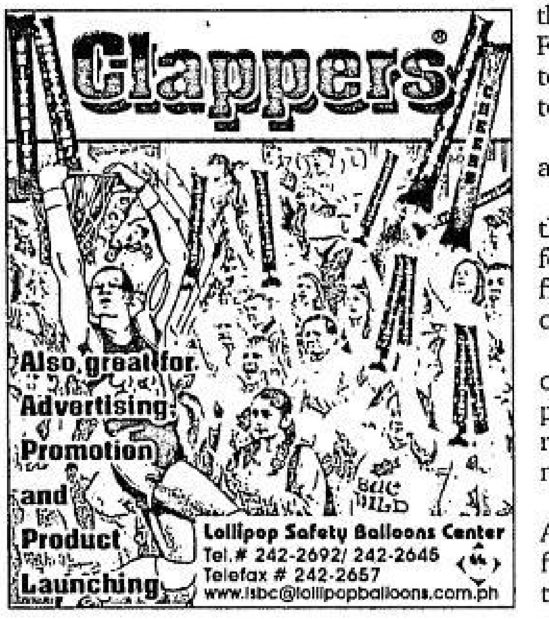
Echavez and Labajo also belong to the NCO pool, but their handler, Tommy Manotoc, consented to the selection of Asistio and Lam, a 19-year-old long-hitter.

Incidentally, Abe Rosal, mainstay of the multititled Canlubang in the Philippine Airlines Interclub, will handle the training of the Nomura Cup team.



FERNANDO: Heeding sponsor's decision

AUNZO: Also caught in the crossfire



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Yap powers Giants past Phone Pals

By June Navarro

Group A STANDINGS	W	L
SMB	2	0
SLR	2	0
Red Bull	0	1
Alaska	1	1
Coca-Cola	0	3
Group B		
Purefoods	3	1
TNT	2	2
Welcoat	1	1
Ginebra	1	2
A21	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(*Fresnedi Gym, Muntinlupa City*)
4 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Alaska
6 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Air21

PUREFOODS ENcountered rough sailing before blowing away Talk 'N Text in extra time, 111-105, last night to seize the solo lead in Group A of the 2007-08 PBA Preseason Tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan.

James Yap bailed the Giants out of trouble by tossing in seven straight points and handed a nifty feed to Jondan Salvador for the insurance basket that neutralized the onslaught of the Phone Pals in overtime.

Though the Giants notched their third win in four games, it was an ugly one considering the chances they wasted in regulation.

For a three-minute stretch in the fourth period, the Phone Pals dissolved an 80-65 Purefoods lead to a single basket following two free throws by Asi Taulava.

Yap ended the drought with a short jumper off the glass before June Peter Simon's three-point play gave the Giants a 92-85 cushion.

Jay Washington knocked in a three in another Talk 'N Text assault as the Phone Pals pulled within 92-94 with 43 ticks remaining.

Yap had the chance to seal the deal in regulation as he drove through the teeth of the Talk 'N Text defense, but Washington swatted away the 2005 MVP's floater.

Jimmy Alapag fetched a foul off a loose ball scramble and then sank two free throws to forge extra period.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 111—J.Yap 29, Simon 14, Raymundo 13, R.Yap 12, Lanete 11, Adducul 7, Pingris 6, Sanz 5, Evangelista 4, Larong 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 105—Taulava 27, Washington 22, Carey 19, Alapag 8, Billones 8, Noble 6, Belano 5, Ritualo 4, Ferreria 2, Fran 2, Cardona 2.

Quarters: 25-17, 45-44, 75-62, 111-105

Buxton targets GT title sweep

CEBU'S JONATHAN BUXTON SETS HIS sights on twin titles at the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championship Series which reaches its climax tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The MP Turbo driver eyes victories in both the Sprint and 30-lap Main Enduro. He leads the title race in the Sprint category with 28 points while his tandem with Baguio ace driver Carlos Anton is likewise on top of the 30-lap Main Enduro race with 80 points.

Oscar Aguilar of Caltex Techron-Blanche Racing, which beat Buxton in the previous leg, is tied for second place with Joey Perry with 20 points.

Expected to fight it out again for the win in the Main Enduro are the Matonetics duo of Felix Perez and Mato Tan and the Oscar Aguilar-Barry Reginaldo tandem.

Anthony de Zuzuarregui and Rami Villavicencio are favorites to prevail in the GT 300.

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- **Jollibee to buy** China fast-food chain /B8

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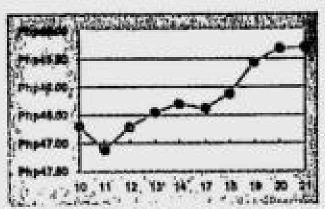

SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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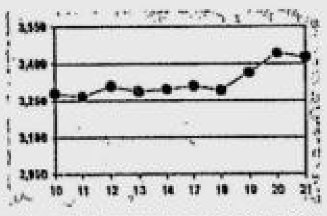
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.5% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.5 percent lower as investors took profits amid fresh concerns on the health of the US economy and surging oil prices, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 18.65 points to 3,423.73 af-

SHARES/ B2

RP firms invested $1.8B abroad

This is not capital flight, BSP says

By Doris C. Dumlao

MORE FILIPINO FIRMS HAVE BEEN INVESTING THEIR EXcess money abroad, making the most of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' initiative to liberalize the foreign exchange system.

From January to June this year, capital outflow from local enterprises amounted to about $1.8 billion—a complete turnaround from the $1 billion in net direct investment inflows recorded in the same semester last year, according to the BSP.

The figure appeared in the country's balance of payments as direct investments abroad.

For the second quarter alone, direct investment outflows amounted to $2.46 billion, a turnaround from the $594-million inflow posted in the same quarter last year.

BSP officials did not take this development to mean that there was capital flight. They said that the outward investment flows merely indicated increased flexibility and improved health of local firms.

"It speaks of the financial strength and sophistication of our companies, consistent with globalization of Filipino firms, and that is something that can be very positive," BSP managing director Cyd Tuano-Amador said.

Earlier, the BSP doubled the maximum amount local companies can source from the banking system for offshore investments to $12 million from $6 million a year.

In undertaking these investments, the local firms need not seek the approval of the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board.

Enterprises that do not need to get dollars from banks are not covered by the BSP restriction.

"There was an increase in non-resi-

TITLE/ B2

AID FOR TRADE President Macapagal-Arroyo discusses with WTO director general Pascal Lamy (left) some of the salient aspects of the aid for trade dialogue held at the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong City. With them is Haruhiko Kuroda of the Asian Development Bank. LYN RILLON

Brittany BEAUTIFUL
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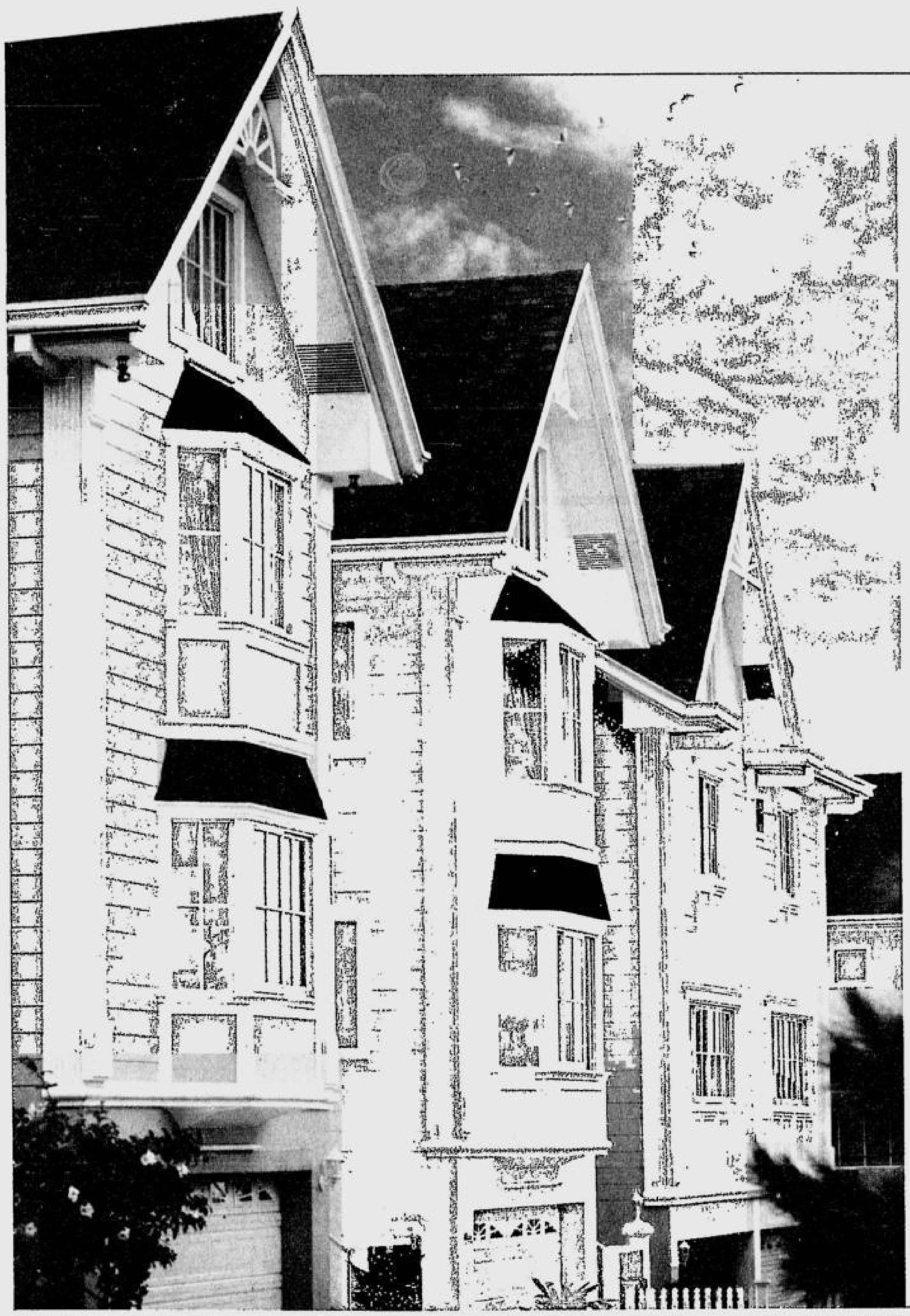

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IC may lift tax on life policies

5% premium tax seen to deter people from buying insurance

By Michelle V. Remo

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER Eduardo Malinis has revived the proposal of reducing, if not lifting, the premium tax on life insurance policies.

According to Malinis, who had served as insurance commissioner from 1995 to 2004 before assuming the post again last July, the 5-percent premium tax is a major reason why insurance has not become a popular investment instrument for Filipinos.

He said that if the government wants to increase the penetration rate of insurance, then the tax should at least be reduced. Governments in neighboring countries do not impose tax on insurance premiums, Malinis noted.

The commissioner said it might be difficult at the moment to convince the Department of Finance to agree on the lifting of the premium tax because the government still needs to maximize its revenue-generating potential to balance the budget.

But Malinis said reducing the premium tax would help in enticing more Filipinos to buy insurance. But he said that his office would still have to study the amount by which the premium tax should be reduced.

"Insurance is a form of savings," Malinis told reporters. "This means that, in our country, you will have to pay tax for saving."

The Insurance Commission earlier said only less than 5 percent of the estimated 87 million Filipinos are covered by voluntary insurance, or policies which are apart from those provided by the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

This pales in comparison with the number of those insured in neighboring countries. In Singapore, for instance, penetration rate is at 200 percent. This means that, on the average, one citizen has two insurance policies.

The Philippine Life Insurance Association said it would push for the lifting of the premium tax to enable life insurance firms in the country to become competitive with foreign firms. PLIA said the insurance industry is heavily taxed compared with other sectors in the capital market.

The Capital Market Development Council (CMDC), of which the insurance industry is represented, proposed a reduction of the premium tax from 5 to 2 percent.

Pepsi secures SEC nod to raise ₱7.9B via IPO

SOFT DRINKS FIRM PEPSI-COla Products Philippines Inc. (Pepsi) has secured the consent of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to pursue a public offering that is expected to raise up to P7.9 billion.

In documents filed with the SEC, Pepsi said it would offer up to 1.31 billion shares—composed of 380.78 million new shares, 761.57 million secondary shares and 171.35 million in additional shares that may be issued on hefty demand. The offer price was tentatively set at P6.04 per share.

Of the offer, up to 799.64 million shares will be sold abroad and up to 342.7 million shares will be offered to Philippine Stock Exchange brokers as part of the domestic offer.

Among the selling shareholders are Guoco Assets (Phils.) Inc. and The Nassim Fund.

UBS Investment Bank will be the lead underwriter for the international offer while ATR Kim Eng and BDO Capital are the joint domestic underwriters.

The net proceeds from the combined offer will be used by the company to finance, in part, the planned capital expenditures for 2008 and 2009.

Pepsi has set a budget of P2.275 billion for additional noncarbonated beverage production facilities, the expansion of some carbonated beverage plants and the launch of new products.

Pepsi-Cola Philippines is the country's licensed bottler of PepsiCo beverages. Its products include juices, iced teas, sports drinks and energy drinks.

In 2006, it sold 110 million eight-ounce equivalents of carbonated beverages and 10 million eight-ounce equivalent cases of noncarbonated beverages. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 582
Series of 2007

Subject: **AMENDMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING AN FCDU BY ATHRIFT BANK AND RURAL BANK/ COOPERATIVE BANK**

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution Nos. 966 and 966.A dated 30 August 2007, the rules and regulations governing the grant of FCDU license to thrift banks as well as rural banks/ cooperative banks are hereby amended, as follows:

Section 1. item c of Appendix 5a of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "c. The Officer who will be in-charge of FCDU operations shall either (1) have at least one (1) year of actual experience in another bank as in-charge or assistant in-charge of the same operations, or (2) have attended a specialized training course on FCDU transactions or operations conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Institute or an institution or bank duly accredited by the BSP."

Section 2. Section 4.a of Circular No. 522 dated 23 March 2006 as amended by Circular No. 579 dated 23 August 2007 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "a. Have the capacity to operate FCDU. A rural bank/ cooperative bank may, however, upgrade its capacity by appointing as Officer who will be in-charge of the FCDU operations either, (a) an individual with actual experience in another bank as in-charge or assistant in-charge of the same operations for at least one (1) year, or (b) an individual who has attended a specialized training course on FCDU transactions or operations conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Institute or an institution or bank duly accredited by the BSP."

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

For the Monetary Board

(*Sgd.*) **AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.**
Governor

17 September 2007

Jollibee to buy China fast-food chain for $50M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FAST-FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE FOODS Corp. yesterday said it would soon acquire a chain of restaurants in China for roughly $50.5 million.

For the whole of 2007, the "Hongzhuangyuan" chain's sales are expected to reach $24 million. At present, it has 26 company-owned stores, all located in Beijing, and seven franchised stores in other parts of China.

Jollibee will acquire 100 percent of the Hongzhuangyuan congee restaurant business. Suspension on the trading of Jollibee shares will be lifted on Sept. 24.

This will be the second restaurant chain to be acquired by Jollibee on mainland China. The Filipino fast-food giant earlier took control of Yonghe King.

"Hongzhuangyan will be a strong addition to our presence in China, in terms of market segment and geographical coverage," JFC chair and chief executive Tony Tan Caktiong said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Tan Caktiong said what lured the JFC group to the Beijing chain is its unique concept, consisting of a variety of Chinese food centered around congee.

"The product offerings at their price provide superior value, thus attracting a high number of customers at different parts of the day," Tan said. "We believe that this restaurant chain has the potential for broad acceptance across China."

JFC chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa meanwhile said that the purchase price was based on multiple earnings comparable to JFC's previous acquisitions worth roughly $50.5 million.

Baysa said the Hongzhuangyuan business is "quite profitable and has no debt."

Also, by the time the acquisition will have been completed, the total number of stores will have grown to 38 stores.

The acquisition, which is subject to certain conditions, may take several months to complete, based on JFC's agreement it recently signed with the sellers.

Due diligence on the Beijing chain was performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers, while legal due diligence was conducted by Jun He law firm.

The acquisition amount will be paid in cash in three tranches over a period of 12 months from the time of completion of the acquisition.

Baysa said the company would use its existing fund to pay for the purchase.

Yesterday, JFC closed at P53 apiece.

RP firms ...

From page B1

dent investments in the Philippines, but then there's a corresponding increase in the investment of residents abroad, resulting in a deficit in direct investment," BSP director Iluminada Sicat said.

Because of the forex liberalization and continued improvement in the financial position of corporations, the local enterprises were encouraged to invest abroad, she explained.

Net foreign direct investments during the first semester were estimated at $1 billion, due to fresh capital plowed into manufacturing, services, construction, mining, real estate, financial intermediation and agricultural industries. For the full year, net FDIs were projected by the BSP to reach $1.7 billion.

The BSP last April eased restrictions on capital outflows to temper the peso's sharp appreciation since the start of the year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo stressed that the outflows of capital shouldn't be viewed negatively because the domestic economy would also reap benefits from these offshore ventures.

The increase in the settlement of intercompany loans by local subsidiaries of foreign companies was likewise cited as a signal of an improved business environment.

So was the prepayment of foreign debts by both the private and public sectors, Guinigundo added.

Shares ...

From page B1

ter moving between 3,402.98 and 3,442.38. The broader all-share index shed 12.86 points at 2,143.53.

Decliners outnumbered gainers 59 to 51, while 49 stocks ended flat.

Volume amounted to 2.8 billion shares worth P3.3 billion ($72.6 million).

"The market took a breather after the strong run-up earlier this week, while foreign fund managers are focused on the testimony of Ben Bernanke," said Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.

Index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. dropped P30 to P2,800. Its arch-rival Globe Telecom Inc. fell P20 to P1,380.

San Miguel Corp.'s A shares rose 50 centavos to P61, while its B shares slipped 50 centavos to P61. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 21, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9	9	9	9	16,000
73	38	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	60	60	58	58	687,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67.5	66.5	67.5	1,652,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	830	840	825	835	14,620
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	420,000
75.5	39.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	53	53	52	52.5	4,366,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47	47	82,600
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22.25	1,861,700
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp	68.5	68.5	68	68	271,500
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	55.5	55.5	55	55	10,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.95	4	3.95	3.95	162,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.96	3,544,000
16.25	3.15	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	32,600
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.94	0.87	0.94	130,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	6,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.5	1,604,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	65,000
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	90
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	926,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5	5.1	5	5	4,279,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	350,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	64.5	64.5	64	64	313,700
92	48.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	73.5	76	73.5	75	2,345,700
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	14.25	14.25	13.5	14	4,402,200
105.45	17.05	Manila Electric Company	83.5	83.5	81	82.5	1,032,300
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	24,423,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	6,820,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	70,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	573,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.1	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	54,000
2.95	1.68	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.7	1.7	2,063,000
2.6	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	3,000
0.98	0.42	RFM Corp	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.84	560,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.38	2.55	2.38	2.5	372,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60.5	61	60	61	17,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61	61.5	61	61	177,500
0.66	0.22	Swift Foods Inc	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	130,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	694,500
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.73	EEI Corp.	4.3	4.3	3.95	4.2	516,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.7	359,000
7	1.36	Republic Cement Corp	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	348,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.12	4,318,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.2	4	4	5,234,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	101,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.25	0.125	[illegible]	0.19	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.96	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	37,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.105	0.0975	0.105	40,500,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.72	0.77	0.72	0.76	14,100,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	360,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	22,600,000
9.7	5.1	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	2,440,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	34,200,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	6,233,000
1.38	0.51	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	170,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.22	2.22	984,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	500	510	500	510	245,960
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.75	13	12.75	13	3,000
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4	4.05	3.85	4	6,149,000
10.25	3.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.2	1,323,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.95	3.8	3.95	66,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	143,000
14.5	6.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	122,000
5.9	0.61	Jollivile Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	79,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.7	7,518,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	326,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.16	0.175	0.155	0.17	372,850,000
0.75	0.175	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	7,760,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	50,000
452.5	224.42	SM Investments Corp.	375	375	360	360	409,160
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.39	39,950,000
1.06	0.59	Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	600,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	65,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	20,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.37	64,820,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	400,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.81	A Brown Company Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	93,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	15,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	230,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	15	15	14.75	15	12,693,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	1,902,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.85	3.6	3.7	127,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	50,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.45	3,340,000
0.99	0.5	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	12,440,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	25,510,000
1.48	0.51	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	10,286,000
2.44	1.17	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.46	47,615,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.64	1,810,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.05	3.2	34,944,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	91,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	2,880,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	1,430,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4	4	3.95	4	86,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17	17.25	16.75	17.25	1,977,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.85	1,776,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	5,883,600
3.25	0.87	Shang Properties Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	186,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.64	1,050,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	3,500,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	6,320,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	91,500
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.5	215,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,250,000
1,445.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,375.00	1,380.00	82,200
2,855.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,825.00	2,825.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	83,890
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,217,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	5,200,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.5	313,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	11,200,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	29,240,000
0.0725	0.028	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	25,500,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	296,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	41,000
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.7	680,000
34.5	16	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	33	33	32.5	33	1,055,000
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.76	2.04	1.76	2.04	10,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	15,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.53	320,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	3	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7.5	3	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.7	4.75	4.7	4.75	555,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	18,000
30	10	Paxys Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	79,200
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	63,700,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. "A"	5.3	6	5.3	5.9	2,059,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. "B"	5.5	6.1	5.5	5.9	935,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	1,128,000
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.25	12	11.25	12	56,000
3.1	0.42	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.86	1.96	1.84	1.96	112,147,000
0.36	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.33	0.36	0.32	0.36	176,870,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.38	54,330,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	673,000,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	63,000,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	36,000,000
7.4	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.4	44,062,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	89,600
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.12	1.02	1.06	8,642,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.24	3,786,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.36	49,790,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	60,400,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	12,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	32,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	83,100,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	893.05 DOWN	5.14	15,853,310	472,636,175.00
Industrial	4,512.13 DOWN	15.58	158,134,800	657,273,715.00
Holding Firms	1,910.28 DOWN	16.84	1,013,148,140	539,677,075.00
Property	1,498.40 DOWN	0.07	180,190,169	554,539,083.74
Service	1,665.41 DOWN	16.54	77,557,790	416,902,690.00
Mining & Oil	7,040.36 UP	301.24	1,445,346,600	709,107,045.00
All Shares Index	2,143.53 DOWN	12.86		
PSEI	3,423.73 DOWN	18.65		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,890,230,809	3,350,135,783.74

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

September 21, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.710833	1.000000	45.3750
Japan	Yen	0.006205	0.008729	0.3961
United Kingdom	Pound	1.427779	2.008600	91.1402
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091333	0.128487	5.8301
Switzerland	Franc	0.606410	0.853097	38.7093
Canada	Dollar	0.709485	0.998104	45.2890
Singapore	Dollar	0.472629	0.664894	30.1696
Australia	Dollar	0.612893	0.862218	39.1231
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.885649	2.652731	120.3677
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.190063	0.267380	12.1324
Brunei	Dollar	0.471063	0.662691	30.0696
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000109	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022354	0.031447	1.4269
UAE	Dirham	0.193688	0.272480	12.3638
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.406800	63.8336
Korea	Won	0.000771	0.001084	0.0492
China	Yuan**	0.094595	0.133076	6.0383
Denmark	Kroner	0.134163	0.188740	8.5641
India	Rupee	0.017914	0.025202	1.1435
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206368	0.290318	13.1732
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525375	0.739098	33.5366
Sweden	Kroner	0.108635	0.152828	6.9346
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021498	0.030243	1.3723

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 20, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen

** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 20, 2007

A. Brown, MPIC tap foreign partners for Transco bid

China's State Grid Corp., Italy's Terna-Rete Elettrica

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED COMPANIES A. BROWN Co. Inc. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. yesterday submitted pre-qualification documents for the auction of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession to be held in December.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, A. Brown assistant treasurer Jasmin Castro said the company had teamed up with State Grid Corp. of China for its bid for the Transco concession.

The pre-qualification documents were submitted by Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp., a wholly owned company of Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc., in which A. Brown has an 18.74-percent interest.

In a separate disclosure, Metro Pacific chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado said MPIC subsidiary Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corp. was participating in the pre-qualification process for the Transco concession bidding.

It had joined forces with Italy's Terna-Rete Elettrica Nazionale.

A. Brown and MPIC were among the five groups that met the deadline yesterday for the submission of pre-qualification documents. The three other groups were not named. An Inquirer source, however, said SMC Energy, together with TPG and Tenaga Nasional Bhd., also submitted pre-qualification documents yesterday.

Estrellado said Metro Pacific would "continue to evaluate the Transco concession before making a decision to participate in the bidding.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said it would announce the pre-qualified bidders on Oct. 12 and that a pre-bidding conference will be held on Nov. 5. Final bids should be in by 10. a.m. on Dec. 12.

The Monte Oro group and Terna were among those that were pre-qualified to bid for the Transco concession last February, but Terna was the only group that submitted an offer.

Basic Energy interested in PNOC-EDC stake

LISTED FIRM BASIC ENERGY Corp. has expressed interest in bidding for the government's remaining 60 percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Basic Energy compliance officer Angel Gahol said the company had already submitted its letter of interest (LOI) to Philippine National Oil Co. Privatization Committee (Privacom) to bid for the PNOC-EDC stake.

Gahol said in the disclosure the company planned to form a consortium composed of local and international firms engaged in energy development and financing to pursue the PNOC-EDC bid.

PNOC last week opened the bidding for its remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC. , which consisted of 6 billion common and ,7.5 billion preferred shares.

Interested entities are given until noon of Sept. 24 to submit their LOIs.

A pre-bid conference was set for Sept. 24, with the deadline for the submission of the initial pre-qualification requirements set for Oct. 5.

The PNOC Privacom will come out with the list of pre-qualified bidders on Oct. 10.

Pre-qualified bidders would be required to pay a nonrefundable fee of $5,000 on Oct. 11 to 12.

Final qualification documents should be submitted by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26 and bids should be submitted by 9 a.m. of Nov. 21. *Abigail L. Ho*

Work on USB interconnect starts

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—INTEL Corp. and other industry leaders have formed the USB 3.0 Promoter Group to create a superspeed personal USB interconnect that can deliver more than 10 times the speed of today's connection.

USB (Universal Serial Bus) 3.0 will create a backward-compatible standard with the same ease-of-use and plug and play capabilities of previous USB technologies.

Targeting a performance increase of more than 10 times the current speed, the technology will draw from the same architecture of wired USB. The USB 3.0 specification will also be optimized for low power and improved protocol efficiency. Its ports and cabling will be designed to enable backward compatibility as well as future-proofing for optical capabilities.

Intel formed the USB 3.0 Promoter Group with the understanding that the USB-IF would act as the trade association for the USB 3.0 specification. A completed USB 3.0 specification is expected by the first half of 2008.

USB 3.0 implementations will initially be in the form of discrete silicon.

BANNER YEAR FOR TOURISM
Senate tourism committee chair Sen. Richard Gordon and Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano hit a ceremonial gong to formally open the 18th Philippine Travel Mart held recently at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. Looking on is House committee on tourism chair Rep. Edgar Chato. The three-day event brought the country's 16 regions under one roof, showcasing their top attractions, indigenous crafts and culture.

IBRD's bond float OKd

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has approved the issuance of P10 billion worth of bonds in the local market by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), one of the five institutions that make up the World Bank Group.

IBRD, which was formed in 1944, works with middle-income and credit-worthy poorer countries to promote sustainable, equitable and job-creating growth; reduce poverty, and address issues of regional and global importance.

Structured like a cooperative, IBRD is owned by and operated for the benefit of its 184 member countries. It raises most of its funds from financial markets. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

Construction firm eyes 51% stake in Primetown

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING firm Eurovek Building Solutions Inc. is keen on reviving an 8,000-square meter residential-hotel project on Mactan Island of inactive listed firm Primetown Property Group Inc.

Primetown was hit by the property slump arising from the 1997 Asian financial crisis and its projects, including that in Mactan, were shelved.

Eurovek president Miguel Manzano said Primetown's 26-storey Gold Coast Towers Project in Mactan was envisioned to be one of country's largest luxury residential resorts, with 800 rooms and a project cost of P3 billion.

Primetown is considered the pioneer in "condotel," or condominium hotels, development.

On July 28, 2003, Primetown sought corporate rehabilitation and debt payment suspension before the Makati regional trial court. In August 2003, the court granted it a stay order and its rehabilitation plan was approved in 2005.

After suspending its real-estate developments in 1998, the firm supported its operations by collecting receivables for completed projects, and by liquidating some assets.

Eurovek is a Filipino firm engaged in design engineering and electromechanical construction. It is also into importation, marketing and distribution of building materials.

It is presently doing engineering works for a Dubai mall and has supplied materials for projects of DMCI, HSBC and Rockwell.

Primetown shareholders are expected to ratify this Saturday a memorandum of agreement inked by the company and Eurovek in July this year.

This will be Primetown's first stockholders' meeting since 2003. Trading of its shares is still suspended.

Under the MOA, Eurovek will acquire at least 51 percent of Primetown or 1 billion shares.

Upon the implementation of the deal, Primetown's name will be changed to Eurovek Land Inc.

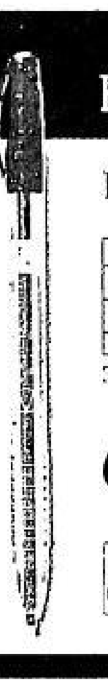
Once its entry into Primetown is approved by the former's shareholders, Eurovek will pursue restructuring talks with creditors to help trim Primetown's debts of P400-P500 million.

Primetown was established in 1989 by the Yap family which had been into steel and construction materials trading.

Its first project was the Century Citadel Inn Makati, the first "condotel" project in the country.

In a statement filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Primetown said it was looking at resuming the development of its shelved projects, including a beachfront property in Cordova, Mactan, a 10-hectare property in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan and a property in Saranggani, General Santos City.

FABER-CASTELL



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GOINGS-ON

Manning, training meet

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE 8TH ASIA-Pacific Manning and Training Conference on Nov. 14 and 15.

Organized by the UK-based conference specialists, Lloyd's List events, the annual conference will be held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Participants can register by calling the local account manager Carmen Chui on +852 2147 9733 or online at www.manningandtraining.com/lm1960 or by email to carmen.chui@informa.com.

"Training and retaining sufficiently well qualified seafarers and preventing further erosion of maritime skills will be the key focus of the conference," Lloyd's List events Conference Producer Danielle Kirton said.

CEB accepts ATM payments

Cebu Pacific is now accepting e-ticket payments via Megalink automated teller machines (ATMs) or its affiliated banks.

Candice Iyog, CEB vice president for marketing and product, said that after payment confirmation, CEB would text the passenger the e-ticket details on or before 12 noon the following day.

A P15 service fee will be charged per payment transaction.

Also, Banco De Oro, Equitable-PCI Bank and Robinsons Bank will accept over-the-counter payments.

Risk management system

Deutsche Bank has launched a credit risk management system in Asia that can provide banks with a new way of processing loan applications and managing credit risks.

Called the Comprehensive Approval System (Compas), it is designed to help banks in Asian countries cope with the increase in demand for new loans from small and medium businesses by automatically processing applications against a comprehensive range of risk criteria.

Compas is a web-based credit assessment system that can be tailored-fit to a bank's specific risk profile. It assigns loan applications from small and medium-sized business with an internal credit rating, based on which Compas will automatically assess the application.

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Dealing with both asthma and allergic rhinitis

ACHOOO!
SNIFF
SNIFF

By Charles E. Buban

THE NEXT TIME YOU GO TO A pulmonologist about your asthma, don't be surprised if he or she refers you to an ear-nose-throat specialist for further evaluation.

This is because more and more doctors are discovering that when it comes to asthma and allergic rhinitis our nose and lungs are somehow linked.

Allergic rhinitis happens when allergens—substances that cause an allergic response—irritate the nose, creating inflammation and producing fluid and pain in the nasal passages, eyelids and sinuses.

Because of this fact, the World Health Organization linked allergic rhinitis with asthma theorizing that since allergic rhinitis makes it difficult to breathe through the nose—hampering normal breathing in the process—the person is forced to breathe through the mouth.

Worsen asthma

WHO believes this could worsen asthma since the air that breathed through the mouth is not warmed, filtered or humidified as it enters the lungs.

"No wonder 80 percent of asthmatic patients have allergic rhinitis while 40 percent to 50 percent of individuals with allergic rhinitis have asthma," said Dr. Leonardo Mangahas Jr., speaking on the launch of montelukast, an emerging treatment that has the potential to control both allergic rhinitis and asthma.

Montelukast belongs to a class of medications called leukotriene modifiers that works by blocking the action of leukotrienes or chemicals in the body that cause airway constriction, excess mucus production as well as inflammation and swelling in the lungs.

Montelukast is used to prevent asthma attacks (not used to relieve an attack that has already started) as well as in treating the symptoms (sneezing, runny nose, itching, wheezing) of seasonal (short-term) allergies.

Taken orally, montelukast is currently the the only once-a-day leukotriene modifier.

More promise

Because of this, Mangahas, an ENT consultant for the Tarlac Provincial Hospital and Angeles University Foundation in Pampanga, believes the "one-linked airway" approach (that Montelukast provides) could offer more promise in treating both conditions.

Here in the Philippines, montelukast will be sold as Montiget (from Getz Pharma Philippines) in 4 mg and 5 mg chewable tablet form as well as in 10 mg tablet.

Getz Pharma, a subsidiary of the Getz Group of the United States, manufactures mostly off-patent pharmaceutical products in several countries across Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Important

Controlling asthma is important according to Dr. Daniel Tan, a pulmunologist from the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Center and Lourdes Hospital, who presented data on the consequences of uncontrolled asthma among Filipinos.

The doctor reported that out of 210 asthma patients interviewed, 31 percent suffered limited physical activity; 25 percent were more susceptible to infection; 23 percent enjoyed very little recreation time; and 14 percent had recurrent breathing problems.

"Indeed, it is time to reconsider what it is still the standard treatment for patients with both asthma and allergic rhinitis today (which is providing one drug for the upper airway and another for the lower airway, with each airway treated independently). The administration of nasal medication to patients with coexisting allergic rhinitis patients and asthma could help a lot in controlling both illnesses," he said.

Tan concurred, saying that in one study looking at decreasing airway obstruction and inflammation in asthmatic children, patients treated with montelukast have asthma-free days increased by 56 percent.

When protein spills in the urine

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

A MIDDLE-AGE PATIENT RECENTly came to consult us at the Manila Doctors Hospital showing the results of his laboratory tests, done as part of their office's annual checkup. "Everything seems to be all right. Looks like I passed all tests with flying colors," he said before I could even start looking at the test results.

It did seem like that test results were normal, except for the urine exam which showed "+ protein." That isolated finding bothered us and we thought it was enough cause for alarm. We had it rechecked and the result was the same.

Although his fasting blood sugar level of 100 mg/dl was still within normal limits, we determined the blood sugar level two hours after eating and the result was 226 mg/dl indicating that he was already diabetic. And the diabetes was already causing an insidious damage to his kidneys which, if not treated promptly, would lead to kidney failure and need for dialysis in the future.

Protein in the urine

The presence of protein in the urine is called proteinuria and should never be considered a benign finding that requires no treatment. Albumin is the main protein that appears in the urine, so the condition is also called albuminuria.

Proteins are essential to the body and are normally not filtered out by the kidneys as blood passes through them. Only water and waste products should be filtered out by normal kidneys. The normal urine does not contain proteins because they (proteins) are too big to pass through the kidneys' filters. When they do, it indicates that the kidneys are already damaged, creating some "holes" in the kidney's filters.

Regular checkup

Proteinuria or albuminuria is commonly caused by diabetes and hypertension, so all diabetics and hypertensives should have a regular checkup to determine if they're spilling proteins in the urine. This can be detected by a simple urine examination which is probably one of the simplest and least expensive laboratory tests to perform. It costs less than P100 in most laboratories. The early detection and treatment of proteinuria can save one from hundreds of thousands of medical expenses later on.

Proteinuria is now considered an ominous predictor, not only of a potentially-serious kidney complication, but of a future risk for heart attack and stroke. It may sound strangely remote that a simple urine finding can identify patients who are at risk to develop a life-threatening cardiovascular condition. The rationale is that protein spillage in the urine indicates damage in the blood vessels, which is likely to be present in all the vital organs of the bodies including the heart and brain.

Regular urine testing

The American Diabetes Association recommends regular urine testing for proteinuria for people with type 1 (insulin-dependent) or type 2 (noninsulin-dependent) diabetes. The National Kidney Foundation also has the same recommendation and even extends it to all high-risk groups, which also includes patients with hypertension, strong family history and other cardiovascular risk factors.

How do you know if you're spilling proteins in your urine. Mild proteinuria does not present with any symptom. Large amounts of protein spillage may cause the urine to look foamy in the toilet bowl. With protracted proteinuria, the amount of protein in the body decreases to a critical level which will lead to edema or "*manas*," initially noted as swelling in the feet progressively involving the hands, abdomen and face. Any undue increase in weight may be due to this fluid accumulation due to a low level of protein or albumin in the body.

Early detection

Proteinuria, especially if detected early, should be considered a blessing rather than a curse. Because of it, one is forewarned of ominous complications to come if the cause of proteinuria is not promptly and adequately treated. For those who have diabetes, hypertension, or both, the primary goal of treatment is to control the blood sugar and blood pressure tightly. For diabetics, the ideal blood pressure should be less than 130/80 mmHg. A blood pressure of 115/75 mmHg would be optimal.

Even diabetics with normal blood pressure should be given either an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor or an angiotensin receptor blocker, two types of drugs which have been shown to be beneficial in patients with albuminuria. They can help reduce the protein spillage and retard the progression to kidney failure.

So, may our diabetics and hypertensives spill a lot of water, but not protein or albumin in their urines.

Money cannot buy happiness

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LOTTERY FANS, TAKE NOTE: ACCORDING to recent studies, money cannot buy happiness. True, winning a big sum make us euphoric at first, but this quickly diminishes to ordinary levels once we adjust to our new status. Prof. Richard Layard of the London School of Economics calls this habituation, and he says that "lottery enthusiasts have a short-term focus, and find it hard to imagine how they will feel in the long-term."

Princeton University economics professor Alan Krueger, who has studied this phenomenon closely, says, "People grossly exaggerate the impact that higher incomes would have on their subjective well-being." Once we get past the poverty level, money does not significantly affect our everyday happiness. True, money lets us buy things, but it cannot solve most of our problems, such as family conflicts or stressful jobs.

In fact, Krueger reports in the journal Science, "People with above-average income are barely happier than others in moment-to-moment experience, tend to be more tense, and do not spend more time in particularly enjoyable activities."

Krueger cites data from the US Department of Labor which show that the more money people have, the less time they spend time doing activities that make them happy. Wealthy people often focus on goals, which of course can bring satisfaction. But working toward goals is different from experiencing things that are enjoyable in themselves, such as hobbies or friendships.

Focus less on salary

What's more, many studies have revealed that most of us do not want to accept a pay cut, even if it would mean more freedom or less supervision, which are related to daily quality of life. Salary is the factor we look at the most, and Krueger compares this short-sighted emphasis on salary to the lottery fan's idea that winning will change his life.

According to Krueger, people focus too much on salary and too little on the non-salary aspects of work. Sadly, they "do not put enough weight on the quality of work. For most people, that is why work looks like the worst moments of the day."

Take a break

A Japanese study published in the Journal of Applied Physiology last June states that taking a break during workouts burns more fat than exercising continuously during the session. This study goes against the recommendations of the American College of Sports Medicine, which urges us to exercise for 45 to 60 minutes at one time.

The Japanese study compared workouts of seven healthy men, with an average age of 25. Their respiratory and heart rates, and blood samples were taken while they underwent the following exercise sessions: A single hour-long workout on a cycling machine, followed by an hour of rest, versus a repeated workout composed of two 30-minute cycling sessions with a 20-minute rest in between and an hour-long recovery period at the end.

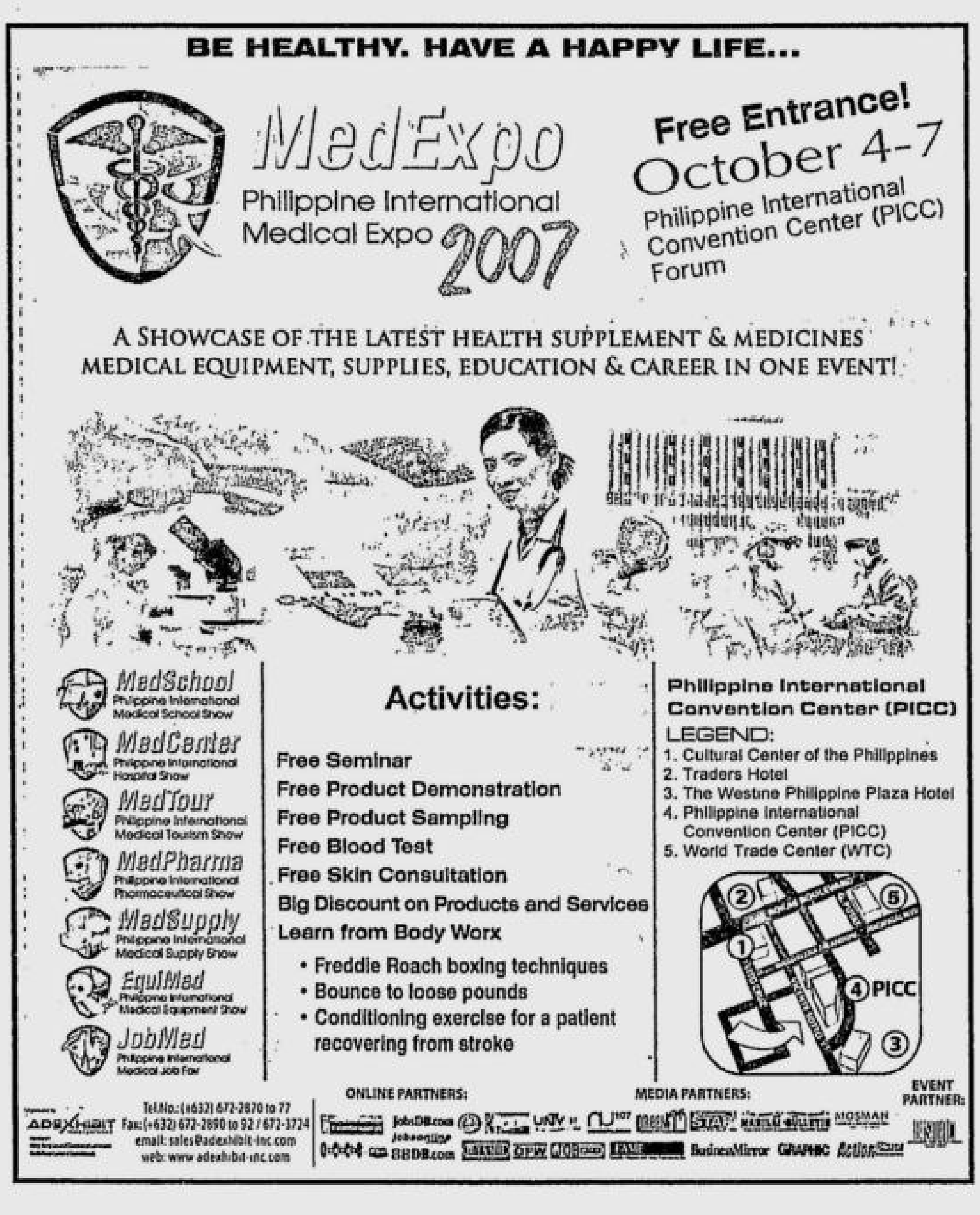
Results showed that participants burned more fat during the repeated session than the single workout. The repeated trial also caused a bigger increase in free fatty acids and glycerol, released when stored fat is burned. More epinephrine was also released, and insulin levels decreased, which contributed to even more fat burning.

Exercise is important for health, but so does taking a break.

I would like to thank Ateneo professors Chita Rosales and Toby Dayrit for alerting me to these studies.

* * *

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.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Experts push cervical cancer vaccines

By Tessa R. Salazar

CERVICAL CANCER IS THE SECond most frequent occurring type of cancer in the Philippines, right after breast cancer. It claims the lives of 10 Filipino women every day, a figure that marks the country as a "high risk" for cervical cancer along with other countries with low-income populations.

Half of Filipino women infected with human papilloma virus will progress into carcinogenic (or oncogenic) form of the disease—cervical cancer.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, executive director of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, said such a high-risk level should prompt women to get a form of "insurance" against cervical cancer. "You get car insurance because the risk of getting hit by another car is high. But the possibility of getting an HPV (human papilloma virus) infection is much higher. That should be good enough reason for you to get vaccinated against the virus."

Good news

The good news is that cervical cancer is one of those rare types of cancers that could be prevented by vaccination. In fact, Bravo disclosed there are two competing vaccine brands available here: MSD's Gardasil and GSK's Cervarix.

Australian gynecological oncologist Dr. Gerry Waine of the Sydney Westmead Hospital told INQUIRER Science/Health during a recent Manila interview arranged by MSD Philippines that there are about 200 types of HPVs, with about 40 of them associated with the genital tract. About 15 of these HPV types are associated with cancer.

Gardasil has been developed to prevent cervical cancer caused by HPV types 16 and 18, as well as genital warts caused by HPV types 6 and 11. This vaccine is recommended worldwide for females aged 9 to 26.

Evil guy

"Some HPVs do nothing. They'll be on your skin and have no effect. Some HPVs, like types 6 and 11, cause conditions like warts and some HPVs cause cancers. Type 16 is the evil guy. Something about the way type 16 interacts with the cells is particularly dangerous for causing cancer. It's a very aggressive virus, and the most important of all," Waine said.

Waine's son and daughter were both vaccinated for cervical cancer.

"The type 16 virus is very important because it transmits the infection from men to women. But the disease is predominant in women, so that's one of the reasons the Australian government only vaccinates women at the moment. But if we get thorough about this, we should vaccinate both sexes," Waine stressed.

KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

Gangs of animals

THREE WEEKS AGO, WE TESTED your knowledge on the animal groupings. We learned that animals, like humans, are social beings too. They go in groups, gangs, troops, tribes and bands, that's how we call their groupings. (Gang for a group of elks; troop, group of monkeys; tribe, as a group of goats and band, for a group of gorillas).

This is the second in the series of these quizzes on animal groupings. Another test for you kids! Best of luck!

Match the name of animals on the left with the name of their group on the right.

Animals	*Name of their group*
1. Alligators	a) Team
2. Ants	b) Murder
3. Cattle	c) School
4. Cockroaches	d) Pride
5. Fish	e) Smack
6. Lions	f) Intrusion
7. Wild boars	g) Congregation
8. Owls	h) Colony
9. Crows	i) Parliament
10. Jellyfish	j) Sounder
	k) Herd

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Reference: www. Enchantedlearning.com

Answers: 1-g, 2-h, 3-k, 4-f, 5-c, 6-d, 7-j, 8-i, 9-b, 10-e

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Dehydration solution through oral rehydration

PLAYING SPORTS? CHASING YOUR RIDE home? Fulfilling your 30-minute work out? Physical exertion, like exercise, makes it inevitable to sweat off the water and electrolytes in the body, which if not replaced properly, may cause dehydration. Once the body is dehydrated, problems like heat stroke may happen. Severe dehydration, if left untreated, can be life-threatening.

There are several factors that may cause dehydration or the excessive loss of water from the body, one of which is too much exercise, without appropriate fluid replacement. "Some dehydration is likely to occur during exercise because a person will not feel thirsty until he or she has incurred a water loss that is approximately two percent of his or her body weight," said Dr. Lester Deniega, a pediatric infectious disease specialist.

Oral re-hydration helps bring back lost water and electrolytes in the body to avoid dehydration. Deniega said that one way to rehydrate is with electrolyte- and carbohydrate-containing beverages (ECBs) also known as sports drinks. These ECBs replenish the body with lost water and electrolytes. "They function as a physiologic 'first aid' (prevention of more severe forms of dehydration)," said Deniega.

For its optimal use for rehydration, the taste, level of acidity and calcium content of an ECB is important. Pocari Sweat, an ECB manufactured by Otsuka Pharmaceuticals has a refreshing taste that satisfies thirst while keeping a person hydrated. It also contains calcium and a stable level of acidity to promote the body's wellness.

Pocari Sweat is safe and ideal for everyday thirst-quenching as it has been proven to have a lower caloric content and with no preservatives. Pocari Sweat is now available in all major supermarkets, convenience stores and drugstores nationwide.

ADBOARD DONATES BOOK TO AD FOUNDATION

The Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), the governing body of Philippine advertising, turned over some copies of the book, 'AdBoard : 25 Years of Self - Regulation' to the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines (Ad Foundation), the industry's social development institution and a subsidiary of the AdBoard, on the occasion of its recent consultative meeting on partnership and collaborative projects for the benefit of all stakeholders of the industry. In the book presentation and turnover were (left): Alex Castro III, AdBoard executive director; Louie Morales, past 6-term chair of the AdBoard and founding chair of Ad Foundation; Johnip G. Cua, incumbent Ad Foundation chair; Andre S. Kahn, incumbent chair of the AdBoard; Raul S. Alvarez, incumbent AdBoard director and president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana); Dino Laurena, incumbent director of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (AAAA - P); Randy Aquino, incumbent 4As-P president; and Linda C. Gamboa, Ad Foundation assistant board secretary and executive director. The above books shall form part of the collection of the Foundation's Advertising Library, of invaluable benefits to students and young professionals of marketing communications.

HP ADDS COLOR TO PHOTO SUMMIT 2007

HP Philippines showcased its top-of-the-line imaging and printing technologies at the recent Photo Summit 2007, held at Virra Mall and Club Filipino, San Juan City, Metro Manila. The summit is a prestigious annual convergence of amateur and professional photographers from across the country, co-sponsored by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Association (FPPA) and Digital Photographer Philippines (DPP). To showcase the printer's capabilities, HP featured exclusive full-color artworks by Manila-based multimedia design team ElectroLychee, printed directly from the HP Designjet Z6100 using HP Original Supplies. HP also highlighted its lineup of Photosmart printers, which feature a built-in multiformat card reader for quick, easy, shoot-and-print photography.

SUPPLY LINK 2008 SLATED ON PISM'S 40TH YEAR

Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), signs anew with Events@Work as the events management arm for its 16th annual supply management conference, SupplyLink 2008. The conference will also mark the 40th anniversary of PISM. Shown in photo are (from left): Perry A. Dominguez, CPM, PISM treasurer; Mel Dominguez, president, Events@Work; Daniel C. Belbis, CPM, Pism president and Lulu V. Bambalan, PISM executive director.

COCA-COLA INTRODUCES HALIKA!

Coca-Cola introduces the newest healthy and active living show, Halika!, which will air every Saturday at 9 a.m. on QTV starting Oct. 20. The show will feature individuals leading unhealthy lifestyles, who will be shown how to be healthier and more active by following three simple values: eating a balanced diet, regular physical activity and proper hydration. The show will be hosted by DJ Delamar Arias and comedian Pekto. Another part of Coca-Cola's commitment to healthy and active lifestyles is Halika! the charity workouts. The program works this way: Every calorie burned by the participants during the workouts will be converted into one peso by Coca-Cola and donated to charities. Everybody is invited to join the next workout on Sept. 22, Saturday, at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City at 6 a.m. This will be for the benefit of the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education and Project Brave Kids.

BOOK FAIRS: PARTNERSHIPS TO MAKE READING FUN

Scholastic Book Fairs are unique educational events that focus on making reading an exciting, effective learning experience for children. Through high-quality, relevant, creative, and innovative products, programs and activities, the school book fairs embody Scholastic's mission to help more Filipino kids read, and ultimately make a difference in their lives. To inspire children to read more and learn new things, the book fairs feature fun and challenging games and activities, such as storytelling sessions, stage plays, book character parades, arts and crafts making, slogan and poster making.

WATSONS AWARDS NEW SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

Pervil Cosmetics Philippines, maker of the best-selling Pervil Magic Cream, has been named New Supplier of the Year (Beauty category) during the recent 2007 Watsons HWB (Health, Wellness and Beauty) Awards held at the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza. Shown in photo after accepting the award is Tess Villanueva, Pervil president and CEO, who formulated her award-winning magic cream while working as a nurse in Saudi Arabia. Pervil's Magic Cream, Whitening Lotion, Cream Soap and Magic Sun Block are available at all Watsons stores nationwide.

CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Proud UP republicans and 70s music icons brought the house down last Aug. 29 at Tropezz Resto-bar (Greenbelt 3; tel. no. 757-4485). The concert held in support for the UP PGH women's desk was a rock-and-rollin' success for both party-goers and beneficiaries. And as the clamor for another Tropezz-UP tie up grows louder, one can't help but eagerly hope that a second musical feast will be served soon.

PNB EMPLOYEES HELP BUILD GK SUNSHINE VILLE

As part of their 91st anniversary celebration, employees of the Philippine National Bank (PNB), one of the leading commercial banks in the country, recently joined hands to help build Gawad Kalinga's Sunshine Ville in BF Homes, Las Piñas City. An initiative that will serve as a primer to PNB's plans of putting up their own GK Village, the 130 volunteers who came from different departments helped paint 17 houses in the said area, to the delight of the families who will benefit in the project. Seen here in photo are PNB employees who worked hand-in-hand in making the GK Sunshine Ville.

BITS Clips

Plan ahead with PHRS

WITH THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR, you would be in a rush to make plans for that vacation. If you are budget conscious and are sick and tired of going to the same old busy places, maybe you are ready to try other unexplored gimmick locations out there. Philippine Hotel Reservations Service can help plan your trip to different destinations like, Baguio, Batangas, Subic, Tagaytay, Cebu, Bohol, and more. With over 400 hotels and resorts all over the Philippines and 20,000+ International destinations, they have a lot of choices to offer. PHRS can assist you in finding the best place for your budget, taste and type of travel. Along with their low price strategy, is the highest level of personal and friendly customer service. Above all, their "no cost" travel consultation ensures that you get the best recommendations without hidden mark-ups or padded fees. No more calling around, plan ahead with PHRS. For inquiries and reservations call their hotline number 812-PHRS (7477), text 0928-984-3664 or visit their website at www.philippinehotelreservations.com.

Team Asia launches health products

TEAM ASIA CORP SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED ITS COMPLETE LINE OF health and wellness products that included the breakthrough Nano Technology wellness cards, Cocos MCT (Medium Chain Triglycerides) Powder Drink and the Super Coco Extra Virgin Coconut Oil. Held recently at Tang's Asian Fusion at the Glorietta 3, the product launch was participated in by a 25-member delegation from the Singapore Food Manufacturers Association (SFMA). But more than the product launch and unveiling its complete product lines, Team Asia also strengthens its corporate social responsibility and commitment in evangelizing the Filipino consumers to shift towards a healthier lifestyle.

JB Music's Musikhero

JB MUSIC AND MYX PRESENT MUSIKHERO, THREE DAYS OF LEARNING, jamming and rocking with the top "Musikheros" of the land in Baguio City. Any budding musician aged 16 to 35 years old will get a chance to be among the 75 lucky participants for the one-of-a-kind band camp. Participants will learn from a curriculum designed by ace drummer Mike Alba, who will serve as one of the camp's "mentors" along with the likes of respected guitarists Jun Lopito, The Dawn's Francis Reyes, Chickoy Pura of The Jerks, Rivermaya's Mike Elgar and Bamboo's Ira Cruz; bass players Buddy Zabala of The Dawn, Rivermaya's Japs Sergio, Freestyle's Rommel Dela Cruz and Razorback's Louie Talan; and fellow drummers Jun Regalado, Vic Mercado of Bamboo, Mark Escueta of Rivermaya, JB Leonor of The Dawn and Ernie Severino of the Side A band. By the end of the three-day camp, the very best of the 25 participants will be hailed as JB Music's newest endorsers and will represent the country in the London International Music Fest in the United Kingdom. The event will kick off pre-event auditions at the Trinoma on Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., before the camp proper takes place at Hotel Elizabeth in Baguio City on Sept. 30. For details, official rules and registration form, visit Musikhero's official website at musikhero.jbmusic.com.ph.

East West Bank launches Corporate Suite of CMS

EAST WEST BANK RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS INNOVATIVE CORPORATE Suite - the solution to cash management service (CMS) requirements in the so-dubbed "CMS Road Show", held at the Plaza Ibarra in Quezon City. The introduction of this new service is the company's response to the pressing business and administrative needs of corporations and enterprises. It is primarily designed to suit the requirements and growing complexities of today's businesses and is being offered to spare the hassles of performing tedious, costly and inefficient administrative functions. As East West Bank ventures on an extensive expansion program, it will continue to develop innovative products and financial services that offer the optimum yield and convenience to its middle market clients. As a result, the company is better positioned to come up with superior service offerings that will surely benefit customers - be it for personal banking, corporate banking and personal investments.

MetroCar Great Rates Sale

METROCAR GREAT RATES SALE PROVIDES SPECIAL RATES ON THE Metrocar Loan package for purchase of any brand new car. Running until Sept. 30, this promo is open to all Metrobank depositors and non-depositors who will avail of a MetroCar loan within Metro Manila branches. Your dream car can be in one of these dealerships that are participating in the promotion - Honda Cars Pasig, Hyundai Quezon Ave, Isuzu Inteco Edsa, KIA Greenhills, Mitsubishi Citimotors, Nissan UN Avenue Manila, Toyota Manila Bay, and Ford Global City. Aside from the competitive rates, borrowers are assured of the benefits in getting a MetroCar loan such as loan values of up to the 80 percent of a new car's net selling price, an affordable installment plan of up to 60 months, fast processing of loan application, and worry-free loan repayment through issuance of postdated checks or automatic debit arrangements. With Metrobank's Metrocar Great Rates Sale, buying a brand new car is an easy decision.

PMA turns spotlight on marketing legends

THE COUNTRY IS ONCE AGAIN GETTING A STEP CLOSER TO WITNESSing more marketing legends ascend the elite roster of Agora Greats as Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the country's premiere marketing organization, pushes the call for nomination efforts for the 28th Agora Awards slated in November. A non-profit award-giving body, Agora Awards is the oldest existing industry awards for marketing greatness. Honoring the cream of the crop's solid achievements in the competitive business categories, it is the most coveted and prestigious marketing recognition in the country. For more information, call the PMA Secretariat at 634-4890 or 638-7770, or e-mail philmarketing@pldtdsl.net.

Speechpower senior consultant wins a Palanca

SPEECHPOWER SENIOR CONSULTANT JOSE DENNIS C. TEODOSIO placed second in the one-act play category of this year's Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. His entry was entitled "Baka Sakali", a close-to-life tragic drama predating the Wowowee stampede incident. The said piece premiered at the 2nd Virgin Lab Fest at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, with Bodjie Pascua and Joel Garcia in the cast. It was directed by Cathy Racsag. As senior consultant at Speechpower, Teodosio authored books in public speaking and leadership training and designed modules for language proficiency tests like the IELTS, TOEFIBT, SPEAK, and OET. At present, he handles oral and written communication courses and conducts orientation lessons.

PVAO PARTNERS WITH ASIA UNITED BANK

In its efforts to constantly upgrade service to the Veterans, the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) recently accredited Asia United Bank under the PVAO's Bank Pension Payment Scheme also known as the BPPS. Effective Aug. 1, PVAO Pensioners can now enjoy the convenience of receiving their monthly pensions through AUB's Redi Money card. Present during the signing ceremonies were (from left) Emmanuel L. Benitez, first vice president of Asia United Bank; Ernesto G. Carolina, Undersecretary for Civil, Veterans and Reserve Affairs and officer in charge of PVAO; and Isabelita M. Papa, Executive vice president of Asia United Bank.

CHILI'S STAR BAR CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

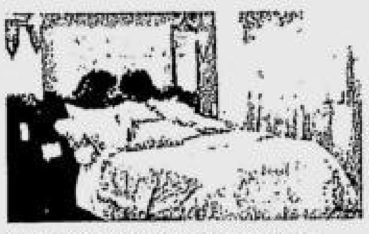
Proving once again that, indeed, they're better than the best, two previous winners of Chili's annual Star Bar Challenge emerged the champions in this year's training competition held on Aug. 9 at Chili's in Greenhills. Grand prizewinner Joanna Francisco of Chili's Greenhills also bagged the top spot top in 2005, while this year's second-prize winner Brando Tanauan of Chili's Tomas Morato was last year's champion. For besting all, Joanna receives a trip for two to Palau, while second-placer Brando gets a trip to Boracay courtesy of Asian Spirit. More importantly Chili's raised P50,000 for event beneficiary Knowledge Channel. Popular radio personalities Miles and Joey of 89.1 FM, hosted the event to a packed house of guests and diners. Chili's is located at the following branches: Missouri cor. Nevada Sts. in Northeast Greenhills - tel. 727-2959; Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati - tel. 812-0225/867-2727; and Tomas Morato cor. Sct. Fernandez Sts. in Quezon City - tel. 372-5017.

ProductFILES

New Glad packaging

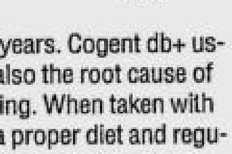
ALWAYS HANDY AND CONVENIENT to use, Glad, the leading maker of wraps and bags, introduces its latest packaging for Glad Aluminum Foil and Cling Wrap. The newly improved design aims to help consumers locate Glad products easily in rows of supermarket shelves filled with bigger product names. Each Glad product now has a colored band with product description that serves a convenient guide to consumers. In addition, cutter location has been improved for easier dispensing of the product. So watch out for the latest from Glad wraps in all leading supermarkets nationwide. Glad makes a great all around cooking companion and reliable ally in kitchen management!

A French colonial home



TO MANY WHO WANT TO ESCAPE the hassles and bustles of the city and live a life of total comfort in a distinguished French home, Versailles which is strategically located adjacent to Ayala Alabang and just 5 minutes away from Alabang Town Center, came to life. State Properties Corp (SPC) thought of developing Versailles, adapting the elegance and comfort of this famous French landmark. One of the model houses that now stand on the 75-hectare Versailles project is called Amelie. This is only one of three model houses that Palafox Associates designed for Versailles where the concept of French Colonial architecture was adapted, a type of structural design which dates back in the late 1870's. But Versailles does not only feature Amelie House Model, it is also offering other masterpieces such as Sophie and Elisabeth, also by Palafox Associates, as well as Adelaide, Therese and Antoinette by RMDA Design Associates. For more information and special schedule for site visit, call tel. nos. 242-1521 to 30 or e-mail at state properties@versailles-phils.com.

Herbal supplement brings hope for diabetics



FOR THE MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS SUFFERING from the silent killer known as diabetes mellitus, potentially fatal complications are a real threat. Fortunately for diabetics, Cogent db+ is now here to give them hope in controlling their elevated blood glucose, staving off complications, and enjoying a better quality of life. Cogent db+ is an herbal dietary supplement developed from the Ayurveda medical system that has been practiced in India for over five thousand years. Cogent db+ uses nine herbs to treat not just the symptoms, but also the root cause of the problem, providing a holistic approach to healing. When taken with a doctor's prescribed medicine, and by following a proper diet and regular exercise, Cogent db+ can help control blood glucose in diabetic patients. Indeed, while diabetes is practically incurable, Cogent db+ now brings hope for a better, more meaningful quality of life for those with diabetes. When natural healing matters, take Cogent db+.

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design
Aries B. Espinosa, Editor

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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www.bestwesternastor.com

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Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
sales@astoriaplaza.com

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Fax 400-7401
customerservice@csbhotel.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 / Fax 525-8979
sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel 712-9293 to 98 Fax 712-9299
salesdept@evercrestgolf.com.ph

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Fax (074) 446-0704
hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

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Tel. 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
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Fax 522-4840

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
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Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
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www.shangri-la.com

The Peninsula Manila
Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City
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Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
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www.palmplazahotel.com

Pryce Plaza
Carmen Hill, Cagayan de Oro City Phil.
Tel. (088) 858-4536-37 Fax : (8822) 726687
Email: reservations@pryceplaza.ph

The Regent Hotel
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The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Makati Palace Hotel
P. Burgos cor. Caceres St., Makati City
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www.makatipalacehotel.com.ph
info@makatipalacehotel.com.ph

Summer Place Hotel
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Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Ascott Makati
Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, 1224 Phil.
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www.the-ascott.com

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Somerset Millennium, Makati
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Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ Fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
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Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

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Legaspi Village
Makati City
840-3215

BSA Mansion
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Legaspi Village
Makati City
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Asian Mansion II
107 Dela Rosa St.
Legaspi Village
Makati City
844-9061

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New Manila, Quezon City
723-9181

Caliraya Recreation Center
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Telefax 6377027
lwww.asbgroup.com.ph

Camp John Hay Manor
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information@centurypark.com.ph

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Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

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ADB Avenue cor. Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City Tel. 633-7222
www.ichotelsgroup.com

Discovery Suites
25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 683 8222 Fax 683 8111
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Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil
Tel. 867-3333
dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

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Tel.526 85 88 Fax 526 17 01
www.grandhotelmanila.com

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Fax 247 8688
manila.casino.hyatt.com

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www.manilapavilion.com.ph

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Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

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Tel. (072)242-5621
Fax. (072) 242-5631
www.oasiscountryresort.com
oasis@sflu.com

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Tel. 899 7888 Fax: 899 6891
www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com

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Renaissance Makati City Hotel
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Tel. 811-6888/Fax 811-6777
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Richmonde Hotel
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Tel 638-7777 Fax 638-8567
trh@richmondehotel.com.ph
www.richmondehotel.com

Subic International Hotel
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www.subichotel.com

The Sulo Hotel
Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. 924-5051 to 71
Fax 922-2030
frontoffice@sulohotel.com.ph
www.sulohotel.com.ph

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
taalvista@fuegohotels.com

WHITE ROCK HOTEL
Bo. Matain, Subic Zambales
Tel. 421 - 2781-82
(047) - 232 - 2857

A bountiful harvest at Emperor Court

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, Manila's premier Cantonese restaurant Emperor Court, celebrates the Harvest Festival of Mid-Autumn abundantly and in high style from Aug. 18 to Sept. 25.

As the Mid-Autumn Festival dictates, elegant boxes of freshly-prepared mooncake varieties are offered at the hotel's grand lobby from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and at Emperor Court, which is perfect for gift-giving. The Moonlight Pavilion gift box includes four white lotus seed puree with double salted yolk mooncakes at P888 per box, while the Moonlight Garden gift box includes a delicious assortment of flavored mini mooncakes (lotus seed puree with single salted egg yolk, red bean puree, coconut meat and taro puree) together with a bottle of fine red wine at just P988 per box. As an added incentive, a P200 voucher shall be given for every box of Mooncakes purchased, and can be used for lunch or dinner at Emperor Court until Dec. 31.

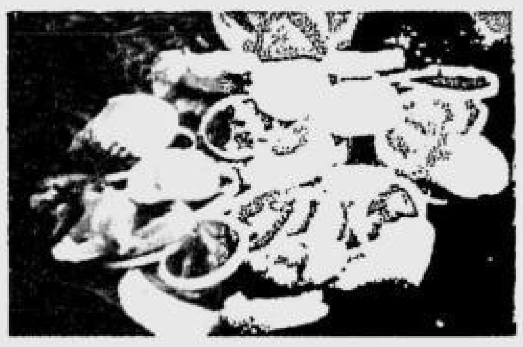
Moreover, a tasteful display of antique Chinese furniture by Noble House Antiques and a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and service will be held at the lobby from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

The culmination of the festivities will be an exceptional Mid-Autumn seafood dinner menu with 33 different palate-pleasing selections prepared by the Hotel's Chinese Master Chef Jackie Fong and his brigade of expert chefs offered on the night of Sept. 25 at P1,188+++ per person. Price quoted for the dinner is subject to prevailing VAT, local government tax, and service charge.

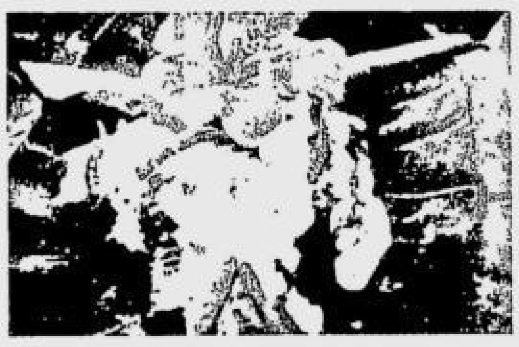
For orders and reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811 6888.

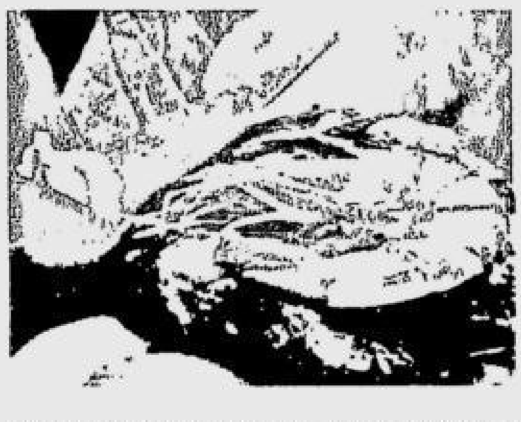
Savor Tayabas' best at Palaisdaan Resto

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS SIXTEENTH anniversary, Palaisdaan Restaurant, a country dining restaurant located in Tayabas, Quezon, is offering a unique, memorable gastronomic experience for anyone who loves country cuisine. For this very special event, the restaurant is showcasing its culinary attractions created by traditionally trained cooks using hand- me-down recipes enriched through the years by the restaurant's matriarch, Luming de los Santos, that represent Tayabas' culinary tradition at its best. The favorite staples are sinugno, ginataan, pinais, suso sa ginataang pako and pinangat.



Only the freshest ingredients that are locally grown are used. Sinugno is a certified best seller. It is charcoal grilled tilapia, then cooked in coconut milk with mustasa until milk is thick and creamy.





Another favorite is suso sa ginataang pako which is fresh water snails (escargot) also cooked in coconut milk with edible young fern. Another best selling dish is pinais which is a delectable mix of shredded coconut meat and fresh water shrimp wrapped in an exotic leaf called kamamba and steamed until tender. Coconut is a major part of the cooking because it is abundantly grown in the area. As diners enjoy their meals, live singers serenade them with beautiful kundiman and rousing festive songs.

These mouth watering yet affordable dishes served with warm hospitality in an idyllic setting amid the bracing cool breeze of Mt. Banahaw will surely give any foodie an unforgettable country dining experience.

For inquiries and reservations, call (042) 793- 3529 or visit www.palaisdaan.com.ph

D. Norman F. Ragudo

Mandarin Oriental's Mid-Autumn Moon celebration

CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN Moon season with splendour and pageantry, at Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Sheung Yuet (welcoming the moon) night on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m., two days ahead of the actual celebration day. The enchanting evening will be spearheaded by international geomancer Joseph Chau with an auspicious paai shan ritual at the Captain's Bar, to augur positive chi energy.

Because the Mid-Autumn Moon festival has become an occasion for family reunions all over the world, and also for lovers' celebration, the nine-member ensemble 92AD will sing popular Chinese and English love songs. Following the program and a raffle of hotel prizes at Captain's Bar, a sumptuous 10-course dinner menu will be served at Tin Hau, prepared by executive Chinese chef Hann Fum Chen and his team.

The Mid-Autumn Moon festival occurs on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar when the moon is at its brightest. It is considered to be the time of year when children are happiest and traditional candle-lit lanterns shaped in various forms are visibly displayed.

Sheung Yuet tickets are available at P1,188+++, inclusive of the dinner at Tin Hau, the pre-dinner show and ceremony, a special Mid-Autumn giveaway, and a chance to win in a raffle draw. Auspicious moon cakes with a variety of delectable flavours perfect for gift-giving are also available at Tin Hau, Mandarin Deli, Lobby booth, and at MO Café & Deli at Gateway Mall, until Sept. 25.

For details, call 750-8888 extension 2422/2424 (Tin Hau); extension 2415 (Mandarin Deli); extension 2633 (Lobby booth); and 913 5505 (MO Café & Deli at Gateway Mall).

The Malayan Plaza Suite deals

THE MALAYAN PLAZA GIVES YOU ONE MORE GOOD REASON TO STAY another night! Avail of The Malayan Plaza's Suite Deals when you book in a one bedroom deluxe unit at P8,888 net/package (inclusive of applicable taxes and service charges) for two nights in a row and get the third consecutive night free. Applicable on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights for local residents only, this rate includes buffet breakfast, bottled water, local newspaper, and free use of fitness center and swimming pool. This package is valid from Sept. 7, until Oct. 15. Prior reservations are required subject to space and suite availability. Check in is at 2 p.m. and check out is 12 noon. Located at the heart of the Ortigas Commercial District, The Malayan Plaza offers furnished units that easily combine aesthetic values, comfort and functionality.For reservations or more information, contact Quantum Hotels and Resorts: ADB Avenue corner Opal Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600, tel. nos. (632) 706-0055/634-6534; fax: (632)635-2969. Online reservations: sales@quantumsuites.com; visit www.quantumsuites.com

Bands at the 20/20

SWOON TO THE SWEET SERENADES OF FREESTYLE EVERY WEEK AT the hippest and most happening hotspot in the south! The Bellevue Hotel's 20/20 Bar announces their band lineup for September, headlined by music from the sultry songtress Jinky Vidal and her band. Sing along with her every Thursday as she rekindles our passion with the group's favorite love songs. On Mondays you can take the stage with Karaoke Nights, Tuesdays are for The Brother's timeless classics. While on Wednesday The Spice Band spices things up for the night. Dance the night away on Friday with Tribe of Levi as their soulful pop and R&B beats prep you for next day's Saturday Night Fever of ballroom dancing. Come up to the 20/20 for a one-of-akin experience. Bottoms up! Enjoy the sweet side of tequila with a dash of orange as the Bellevue's 20/20 Bar serves the best tasting ready mix cocktail of Hollywood: The Margarita King! Carrying the sweet aroma of candied lemon peel, the zest of orange and the kick of tequila, this will be the best margarita you'll ever taste. This September, come try the King and you'll get the second round for free. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Conway's Bar
813 8888 ext. 7026

Heaven 'n Eggs
(02) 818-2792
(02) 889-3791

Sushi-Ya
0917-84-sushi

Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House
899 6688 / 899 8999

Kalye Juan
0920-94-kalye

Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Restaurant
899 3388 / 897 4148

Tony Roma's Restaurants
757 1926 / 771 1388

Palaisdaan Restaurant
Barangay Dapdap.
Tayabas, Quezon
(042) 793-3529

Island Foot & Body Wellness
899 1234 / 75J 8296

Lola Maria Coffeeshop
60 Pioneer St.
Mandaluyong City
633-1501 to 10

Café Mediterranean
Greenbelt
894-4032

FJ's Grill
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Bo's Coffee Club

The Old Spaghetti House
687-6630

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

North Park
73737

Causeway Seafood Restaurant
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

MUSEUM CAFÉ
Ayala Museum,
Greenbelt 4
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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Odilia Competente Espinas

(1935-2007)
of Tiwi, Albay, and Legazpi City

beloved of her daughters **Tessa** and **Adora**, son-in-law **Mark**, and grandchildren **Kevin**, **Adrielle**, **Franz** and **Jared** has gone to join her husband **Merito** in the bosom of our Lord on September 18, 2007.

She lies in state at the St. Raphael's Parish Church in Legazpi City.

A Requiem Mass will be held on Sunday, September 23, 2007, 1:00 p.m., at the Baptistry of St. Raphael's Parish Church before interment at the Bicol Memorial Park.

MARIO B. CAMACHO

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 18, 2007 at the age of 84.

His only child **MARILITZ**; son-in-law **ARMANDO DIAZ, JR.**; grandchildren, **ANNELLE, MINEL, RACIEL, RAYMOND, JERI** and **JEANDRE** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the chapel of Holy Family Parish Church, BF Homes–Almanza, Las Piñas. Holy mass will be held tomorrow, Sept. 23 at 10:00 a.m. Cremation will follow at 12:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel – Crematorium, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque.

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Give them comfort when they die; Give them life with
Thee on high; Give them joy which never end.
.... Amen
– Veni Creator Espiritu –

- Jorge C. Perez -

February 22, 1937 - September 10, 2007
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Alumnus of the Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines
MBA - Fordham University, New York

Has joined our Creator and passed on to eternal life on September 10, 2007 after a brief illness at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, New Brunswich, New Jersey, USA.
His beloved wife Millet Ventura and loving Family & Children
Dr. Joey and Pam Perez, Lt. Col. Rich and Maita Pang
Anthony Valzac Perez
Grand Children Yasmin Pang, Jared Perez
- and -
Family Delie Perez, Sisters Lucy Salvador,
Isabel Batallones - California, USA
Rosalina and Chi Bing Chua - Oregon, USA, Bro. R. C. and
Josephine Perez - Hawaii, USA,

Commend him to our Lord with joy...

He lies in state at the San Antonio De Padua Chapel
La Torre, Talavera, Nueva Ecija
from September 22 - 24, 2007
Holy Mass will be held on September 24, 2007
9:00 am before interment at the
Talavera, Nueva Ecija Cemetery

AUGUSTO T. SANCHEZ

Retiree of Biomedis, Inc.
United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 20, 2007 at the age of 72.

His body lies in state at Arlington, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Sept. 27 at Manila Memorial Park, Plaridel, Bulacan.

CLASSIFIEDS

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II)** is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of materials/equipment specified for the following projects:

I. **SUBSIDY PROJECTS:** Extension of Lateral Line for the Electrification of Brgy. San Juan Sta. Marcela, Sitio Tomas, Maura, Aparri and Purok Sinamar, Libertad, Abulug, Cagayan.
  1. Wood poles, concrete poles
  2. Construction hardwares, wires, transformers

II. **CAPEX PROJECTS**
  1. 69KV TX Line
    a. Woodpoles
    b. Suspension Insulators (glass, porcelain, polymer)
    c. Fault indicator
  2. Substation
    a. Current Transformers, Insulating Class 69KV
    b. CT Rated Power Quality Meters

III. **5% REINVESTMENT PROJECTS:** Rehab/Revamp Upgrading Along Distribution Lines
  1. Woodpoles, Concrete poles
  2. Wires, construction hardwares, compression connectors, insulators
  3. Fault indicators

IV. **METER FIX**
  1. CT Rated Kwh Meters
  2. Duplex Wires

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
  a. Company Profile
  b. Business Registration
  c. Business Permit
  d. BIR/VAT Certificate
  e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
  f. List of clients for a period of three (3) years
  g. Financial Statement
  h. Compliance with the must technical specifications
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal for most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expense or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirement - October 08, 2007.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 23, 2007)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913
TIN 000-716-369 V
Tel. No. (077) 784-71-26 / 784-00-82 Local 818
Fax No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to submit bids for the said project.

The project includes the furnishing of labor and materials for the construction of about 37 kilomteers of 69 KV line in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours starting October 8, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

The TWO-ENVELOPE SYSTEM shall be followed.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price.

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expenses or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the INEC.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM, REE
BAC – Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE
OIC – General Manager

(PDI – September 22 & 23, 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this City per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	4	UNITS	DIST. TRANSFORMER, 75KVA, PHILEC, WAGNER OR ITS EQUIVALENT SPECS: – DOUBLE BUSHING, OIL IMMERSED, 1 PHASE – 7,620-13200V WYE / 12--240 VOLTS – BRAND NEW AGENCY PRICE P161,700.00

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of Sept. 22, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **September 27, 2007.**

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of **September 27, 2007.** Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 22, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Stock Certificate No. 001 for 99,999 shares issued to TVI Copper, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 011 for 75,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 012 for 25,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 015 for 675,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., and Stock Certificate No. 016 for 225,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc. were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.

(PDI–September 8, 15 & 22, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID

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2005 Mitsubishi Pajero 4X2 A/T / XRT-241
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For particulars, plesae call Philam Ins. Co., Inc. c/o Tristan Yoro & Arvin Calipjo at Tel. No. 815-30-00.

(PDI – September 22 & 23, 2007)

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BUSINESS

Gov't collected ₱7.7B in dividends as of Aug.

Banks take up cudgels for nature

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MANILA-BASED ASSOCIATION OF Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) yesterday launched the "Green Banking" program to promote environmental governance standards among banks and financial institutions in the region.

"We are now being confronted with global climate change issues. Some financial institutions that previously found nothing wrong with underwriting millions of dollars for certain sectors like mining, illegal logging and other commercial operations that rapidly deplete the ozone layer, denude forests, deplete water resources or pollute the rivers have now started paying attention," said Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, chair of ADFIAP and Planters Development Bank of the Philippines.

Alistair Macdonald, European Union ambassador and head of delegation to the Philippines, lamented that banks in Asia had been relatively slow in examining their exposure to environmental risk, considering the business opportunities in sustainable development.

"This is a missed opportunity, both for the environment and business," MacDonald said.

The EU provided a grant of about P22 million to advance the "green banking" initiative in Asia Pacific.

Among others, the project resulted in the publication of resource and training books that will help financing institutions assess environmental risks when evaluating loan proposals from borrower-clients.

Reynaldo David, president of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, said his bank, for instance, had decided not to extend credit to firms violating environmental standards.

"Banks are not just caretakers of the nation's wealth. We must also be caretakers of the earth," David said.

DOF cracks whip on erring GOCCs, GFIs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTED P7.7 billion in dividends as of August this year, 17 percent more than the P6.6 billion it got in the same period last year from state-run corporations and government financial institutions.

The DOF earlier told government-owned-and-controlled-corporations and GFIs to remit the exact dividends due the national government, which is still in the process of balancing its budget.

Most charters of state-owned firms mandate them to remit at least half of their net income to the national government as dividends. Companies that post negative retained earnings, however, are allowed to temporarily miss remitting dividends.

But according to Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr., many GOCCs have failed to remit the right amount of dividends to the national government, partly because the government had been lenient when it comes to collecting.

But Paul said the DOF, tasked to oversee major GOCCs and GFIs, had tightened its watch over these firms to help the government raise enough revenues.

The dividends collected in the first eight months formed part of the P117.21 billion in revenues generated by the Bureau of the Treasury during the period.

The BTr also generates income from investing government funds in foreign-currency denominated instruments like US Treasuries.

The BTr is the third-biggest revenue contributor to the national government following the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs.

The DOF noted, however, that while dividends have been increasing, so too are subsidies to GOCCs and GFIs, thus contributing to the budget deficit.

"We talked with some GOCCs and told them they should lessen their dependence on the national government. It's time for them to help government," Paul said.

Some GOCCs have been relying heavily on subsidies from the national government for their operations.

The DOF said subsidies granted by the government to state-owned firms are rising at a much faster rate than dividends.

It had been reported that subsidies to GOCCs and GFIs rose by 75 percent to P8.271 billion from January to August.

The DOF said the rise in subsidies could be attributed to higher financial support needed by the National Housing Authority, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PHIC) and Technical Livelihood Resource Center for the delivery of their social services.

PNOC-EDC in talks with Indon utility

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT Corp. is in talks with Indonesian utility PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (Persero) for the development of three geothermal sites in Indonesia.

Guillermo Balce, PNOC-EDC consultant and former energy undersecretary, said the possible sites are in Manado, Sumatra and Java.

"We'll study an old prospect in Manado. We actually want to develop just one area, but they're offering us three areas. So we'll discuss those three areas, see how we can work with them there," he said in a briefing yesterday.

He said there was great business potential in Indonesia as far as PNOC-EDC was concerned, considering the Philippine firm's expertise in geothermal development and Indonesia's aggressive geothermal targets.

Indonesia, he said, wanted to have 20,000 megawatts of geothermal capacity by 2020.

"The good thing about Indonesia is that there are (power purchase agreements). There are sure markets for the power that plants will produce," he said.

At this point, he said there was nothing concrete between PNOC-EDC and Persero as talks were still on the exploratory level.

The Manado prospect, however, was already the subject of discussions some years ago, he related.

Last year, Balce said PNOC-EDC was already set on developing the Manado prospect with Japanese firm Marubeni Corp. as financial backer.

The project was shelved, however, due to certain "internal problems" among Indonesia's energy firms, he said.

"They were not able to resolve which of the state-owned energy firms should be involved in the development of the geothermal site. We're asking them to resolve this now as we want to revive the project," he said.

He said PNOC-EDC wanted to develop the Manado field up to production. It had a potential yield of at least 20 megawatts.

Car parts makers seek exports with new brand

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL AUTO PARTS MANUfacturers yesterday announced they were adopting a common brand in an effort to break into the export market as the industry continues to operate below capacity.

John Lee, a director of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP), said the group decided in a recent meeting to embark on its One Brand project to supply the automotive after-sales market here and abroad with replacement parts.

Lee, who is tasked to implement the project, said MVPMAP members would pool their resources to collectively market their non-proprietary products under a single brand name.

"MVPMAP would screen the products that members are endorsing for the common brand, and would then apply its seal of approval before a product gets into the program," he said.

Lee added that the project was expected to help members save costs in marketing, promotions and selling since the unified campaign would directly target the chosen market.

"We will save costs by making joint collateral and marketing materials and implement a common marketing program and strategy," he said.

"In this way, we are able to pool together whatever meager resources we have to be able to compete globally as a bigger entity as well as create more business opportunities for our members," Lee said.

Further, Lee said end-users would be assured that they would get the same product quality for the products they buy as those supplied by MVPMAP members to the original equipment market—which are the vehicle assemblers.

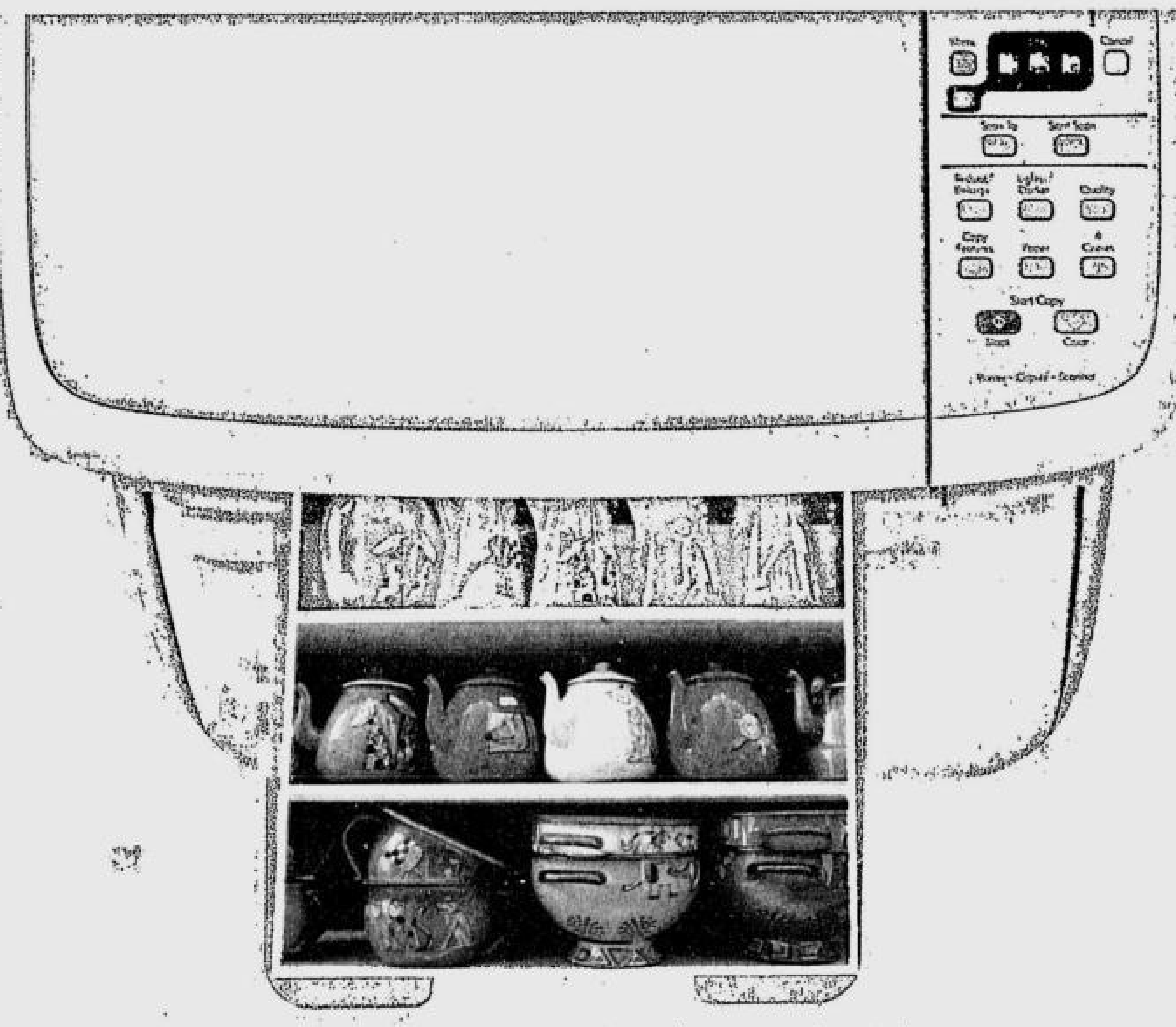
Lee said the group had tapped an Australia-based import-export consultancy firm to help MVPMAP break into the export market.

MVPMAP aims to send out consolidated shipments of auto parts to Australia for distribution to the clients.

Also, Lee said the One Brand Project was meant to cushion the impact of reduced production volumes during the last few years owing to negative market factors.

He said the local auto sales have not grown during the last 10 years, forcing auto parts makers to operate their factories at an average of only 40 percent of capacity— which is not enough to achieve economies of scale.

MVPMAP blamed this on the increase in sales of completely built-up vehicles as opposed to ones assembled locally out of completely knocked down kits as well as the continued importation of used vehicles through the country's free ports.



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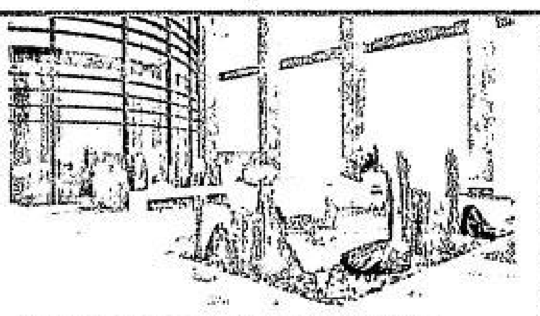
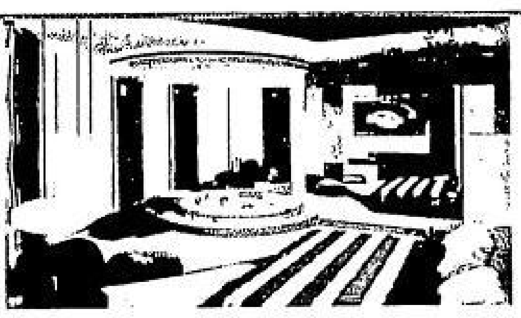
PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

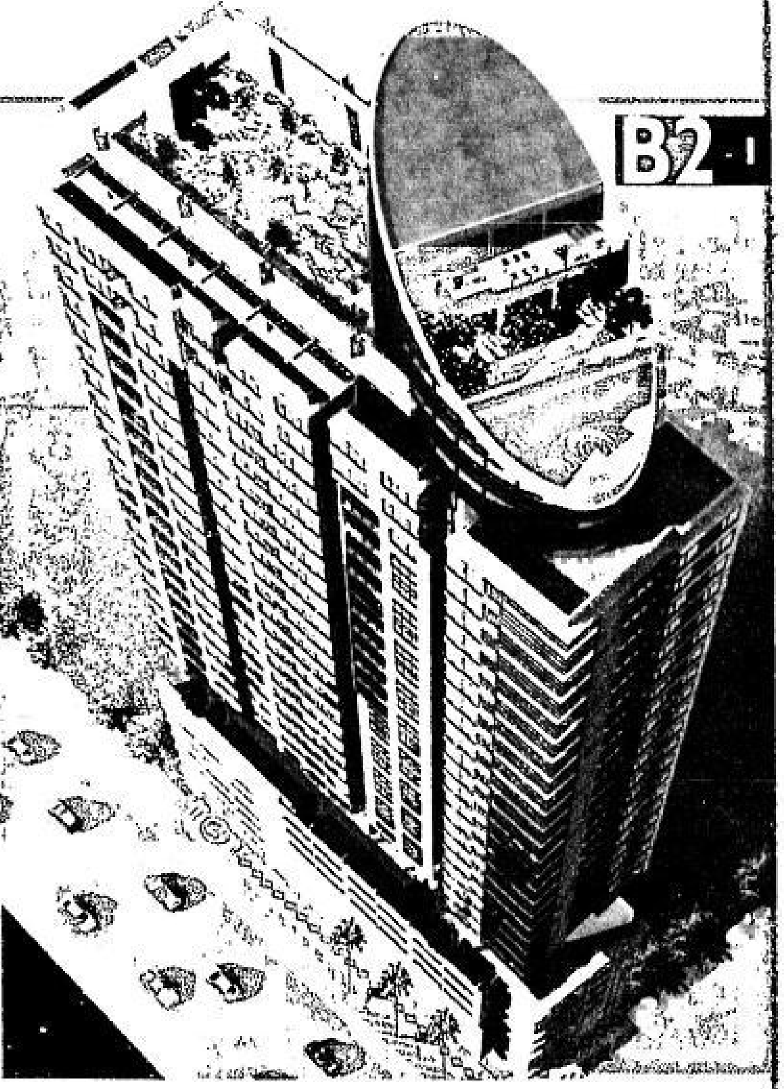
THE POOL area at the penthouse unit of May Tower's Oval viewing deck



ENJOY early morning meal at the Sky Terraces' breakfast nook.



THE MASTER bedroom in one of the penthouse units at the oval viewing deck.



THE MAYFAIR Tower is crowned by a unique, oval-shaped structure rising on the 30th floor.

New luxury residential condo to adorn Manila skyline

By Charles E. Buban

IMAGINE BEING AT THE OVAL viewing deck of this soon-to-rise residential high rise at the corner of UN Avenue and Mabini Street.

Offering a 360 degree view of its environs—with the Manila Bay as the centerpiece—the Mayfair Tower is indeed one of the most anticipated projects in Manila.

In fact, owner and developer Anchor Land Holdings Inc. is happy to announce that their two- and three-bedroom units facing Manila Bay and their 36-square-meter single bedroom units are still available. The project is expected to meet its deadline of completion in the second quarter of 2008.

"Alhi is guided by the principle that you have to deliver what you promised. And more than simply building a structure, what we want for our homebuyers are units where they can safely and comfortably rest after their busy day," said Alhi vice chair Steve Li during the Mayfair Tower's recent topping-off ceremony.

Cosmopolitan living

Li added that Alhi made sure that the P850-million Mayfair Tower will respond to the lifestyle of its homebuyers who have been exposed to cosmopolitan living.

The design of the building alone conveys the message: extensive use of rectangular prism of jade green, reflective glasses and lines of stainless.

The 7th floor will feature a 30 meter, three-lane pool as well as a kiddie pool, spa, sauna and shower areas, fitness center, pond, function hall, sun deck, pocket gardens, viewing deck, waterfall feature and a lounge area.

But the main attraction of Mayfair Tower lies on top of the building where it is crowned by a unique, oval-shaped structure rising on the 30th floor.

This is also where the Skygarden and the Vista Deck are located.

30th floor attractions

While the Skygarden will feature pocket landscaping, bench seating and a multilevel outdoor function area, the Vista Deck located at the 30th floor will have the Skylounge where a lounge and reading areas, breakfast nook, bar, viewing deck and indoor pocket gardens will be located.

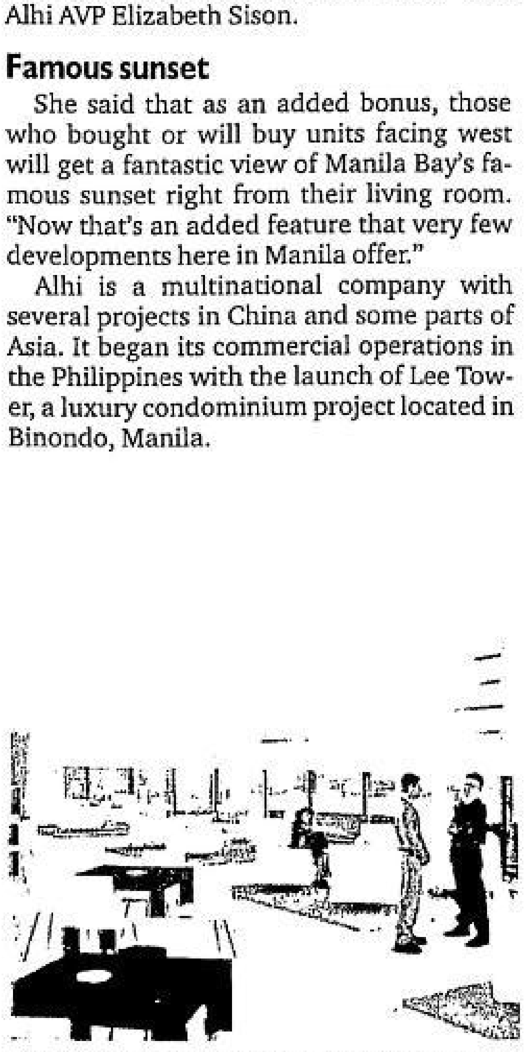
This area can also be converted into an open-plan indoor function area.

"Mayfair Tower's location also makes it very accessible to Manila's finest restaurants, schools and various entertainment options. Long-staying expatriates or homecoming Filipino professionals would indeed appreciate having a unit here," said Alhi AVP Elizabeth Sison.

Famous sunset

She said that as an added bonus, those who bought or will buy units facing west will get a fantastic view of Manila Bay's famous sunset right from their living room. "Now that's an added feature that very few developments here in Manila offer."

Alhi is a multinational company with several projects in China and some parts of Asia. It began its commercial operations in the Philippines with the launch of Lee Tower, a luxury condominium project located in Binondo, Manila.



FUNCTION area at the viewing deck located at the 30th floor

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The most energy-efficient buildings in Asean in 2007

Conclusion

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

SINGAPORE AND MYANMAR GARNERED the top awards in the Retrofitted and Tropical building category, respectively, in the recently concluded Asean Energy Awards.

The Asean Energy Awards is Southeast Asia's most prestigious annual awards program that recognizes outstanding works in the field of energy. Its aim is to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation.

Retrofitted building category

Singapore—Winner

The Environment Building under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources is this year's winner. The project, built in 1986, occupies a site of about 9,563 square meters with a total gross floor area of 49,021 square meters.

The building consists of a five-story office tower block with a two-basement carpark and a six-story annex. Natural ventilation and daylight are key passive elements incorporated in the design as shown in air wells for carpark, staircase, elevator lobby, foyer and open link ways.

The building façade was re-finished in 1995 from a tiled façade to aluminum metal cladding. The air-conditioning system was upgraded to cut down on energy consumption.

Green features of the building include an air distribution system for the offices to control the fresh air supply through the use of carbon dioxide sensors; light level sensors to automatically control lighting; occupancy sensors for meeting rooms; energy-efficient lighting and a modular cooling system to switch from the main chilled water system to the standalone system for use after office hours.

Singapore—First Runner-up

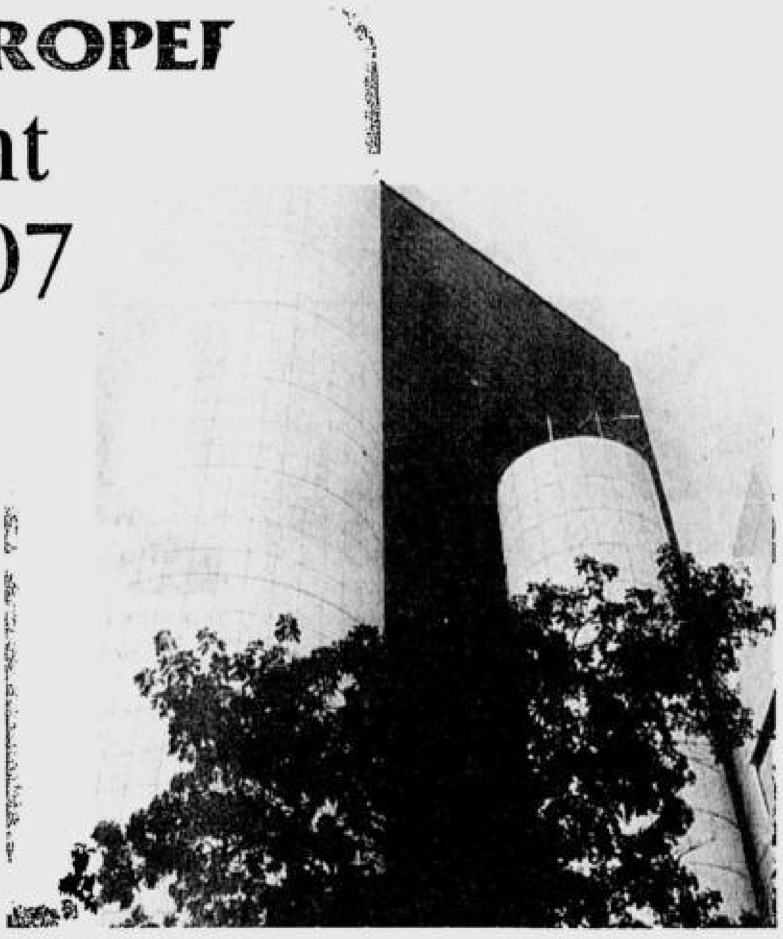
Plaza Singapura, is the first runner-up. The building, completed in 1974, is a seven-story shopping and entertainment complex with two basements, a hypermart, department stores, shops, restaurants and cinemas.

Its energy savings were obtained largely through the upgrading of its air-conditioning system, replacing chillers and incorporating variable speed drives (VSD) to the cooling towers.

Vietnam—2nd Runner-up

Diamond Plaza Building, completed seven years ago, is the runner-up. It is a 19-story commercial center with a gross floor area of 57,144 square meters.

Its energy savings were achieved through the use of daylight, sunscreens to control solar penetration, landscaping, energy efficient air-conditioning and lighting.



SINGAPORE'S Environment Building

MYANMAR'S Mingalar Garden Resort

Tropical building category

Myanmar—Winner

Mingalar Garden Resort is located in Pyay, a large town with a hot and dry climate where the average temperature ranges from 44°C in May and 18°C in January. It occupies an area of about eight hectares. It has a mini golf course and spring ponds within a total area of 22 hectares of natural forest, springs and creek. The resort has 49 rooms all located in the spring ponds and connected by timber decking walkways. It also has a function hall, four dining halls, an outdoor dining area and boat rowing. The gross floor area of the resort is about 3,757 square meters.

The design concept was to create a natural environment integrating the spring ponds, the beautiful landscape with tall trees acting as umbrellas to shade the cottages and walkways, encouraging visitors to walk from one building to another and thus, reduce the use of cars to minimize noise and pollution.

The whole site is extensively covered with grass and big trees which make it significantly cooler. Only the sleeping areas are air-conditioned. Daylighting is available in each room so artificial lighting is not needed during the day. The buildings use locally sourced timber and bamboo.

Wastewater is collected in separate waste lines and disposed away from the pond. Overflowing water from the ponds is collected into a natural drainage flowing into a creek eventually draining into the river.

Indonesia—1st Runner-up

The Novotel Lombok is the first hotel completed in 1997 in the Mandalika resort complex. Its site area is about 20,000 square meters. It has 23 traditional villas and 85 block rooms, an open air restaurant, a seafood restaurant and an air bar with a total gross floor area of 8,197 square meters.

Its architecture is adopted from the traditional "sasak" house which is energy-efficient and uses natural, environment-friendly materials.

Cambodia—2nd Runner-up

The Sofitel Phokeethra Royal Angkor Hotel, completed in October 2000, has a gross floor area of 70,000 square meters. Its design is a combination of French and Khmer architecture. It has 15 buildings, 239 modern rooms, an 18-hole golf course and spa resort.

Huge trees and landscaping in a forest-like setting are used to provide shading and reduce heat gain. The rest hall and spa centers are built on an artificial lake.

Malaysia-2nd Runner-up

The Street Mall is a shopping facility in the ICT Township Cyberjaya. The mall promotes the concept of a garden within the shopping arcade. It promotes a pleasant shopping and recreational environment to the Cyberjaya community through the creation of a microclimate and landscape made up of fountains, gazebos, garden paths and courtyards with a cooling effect from the built-in mist spray to counter humid tropical conditions.

To prequalify for the 2008 ASEAN Energy Awards, please call Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243 or 840-1401.

(The author is the chair of the board of judges, Asean Energy Awards.)

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Alta Vista de Boracay gets ready for handover

UNIT OWNERS OF ALTA VISTA DE Boracay do not have to wait much longer to enjoy their new home away from home. "We are ahead of our schedule, in fact, we are handing over the first two buildings to unit owners this December," says Elmer G. Civil, DMCI vice president and director for design and construction.

Structural roof framing and masonry works at the clubhouse and amenities, such as the swimming pool, are in full swing. The concrete road pavement from the entrance going to one of the end rotunda has been substantially completed. Permanent water supply is now connected to BWSS and the primary power line has been tapped to Akelco lines, ready to energize in time for the handover.

The other buildings are also in different structural stages. The third to the sixth buildings will be operational by the first and second half of 2008. "We expect to finish construction of all the 18 buildings before the end of 2009," Civil says.

Condo in Boracay

"We were surprised when our boss (DMCI Homes president Isidro Consunji) told us that we're going to build a condominium in the resort island," Civil relates. "That was in 2003, and we were in Boracay for a corporate team-building session." True to the president's word, DMCI was successful to acquire a prime land in Boracay in 2005, then the whole development process began.

"It would have been easier for us if it was flat land," Civil remarks, "but we had to build on a steep slope, in a mountainous area of Barangay Yapak. It was a real challenge, but as our boss said, we like challenges."

Transporting equipment, etc.

How to construct the buildings on the hillside required careful planning and design. The rough and rugged terrain was not the only challenge. "Since we are working on an island approximately 350 kilometers south of Manila, one of the problems we anticipated was the transporting of equipment and materials," Civil points out.

To address this, they utilized the barges of a sister-company used in transporting coal from Semirara in Antique to the Napocor power plant in Calaca, Batangas. The pier in Calaca was used as a temporary staging area for all container vans and other materials prior to transport to Semirara Island. The materials are then transported from Semirara to Boracay through shipping vessels.

"This is the advantage of being part of a big company," Civil says. In a fine stroke of perfect timing, DMCI was also awarded the Shangri-La Resorts and Spa construction project in the island at about the same time.

Fully furnished, fully fitted

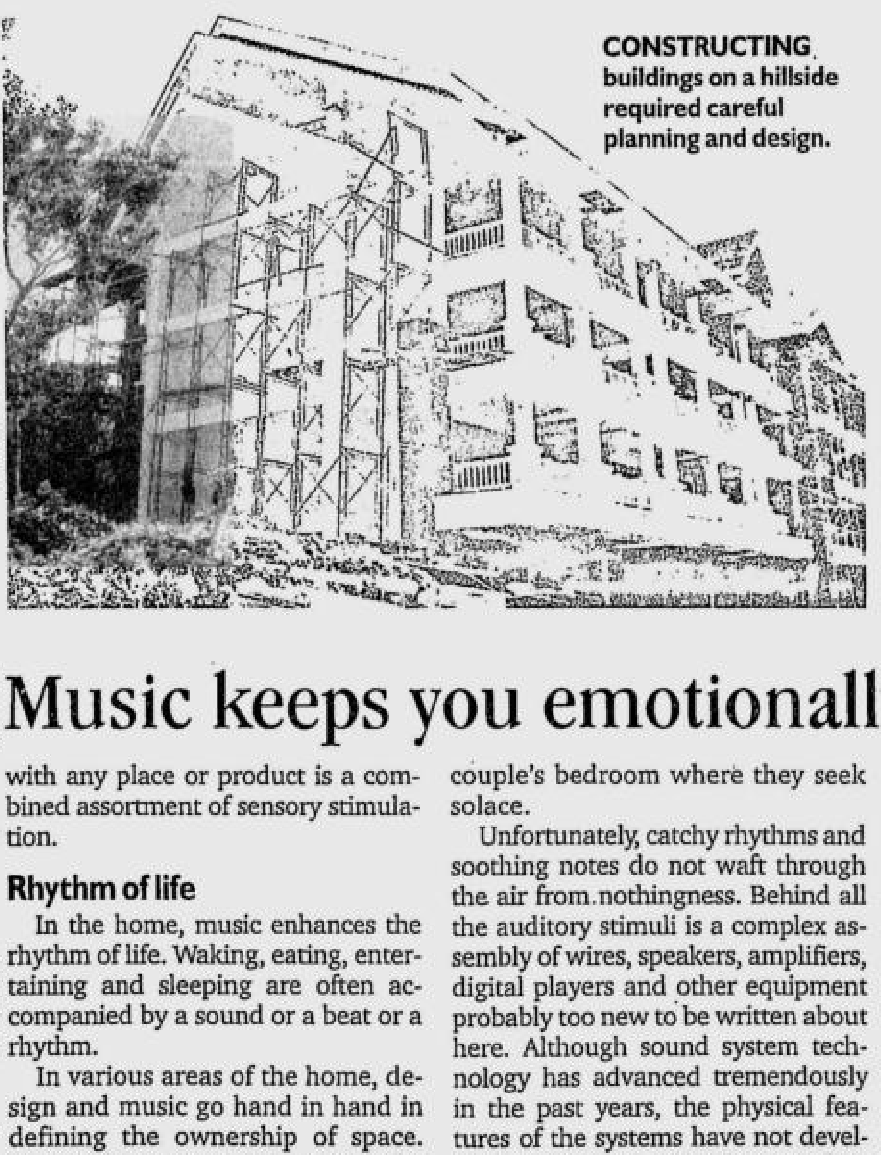
"Unit owners won't have to worry about the problem of transporting their furniture and appliances to the island since they will get their units fully furnished and fully fitted," Civil says. "Upon completion, Alta Vista de Boracay will be equipped with hotel resort amenities and facilities that will make the stay of unit owners and guests convenient and hassle-free."

In addition, owners may receive monthly rental income should they choose to place their units in the leaseback program, making their unit ownership income-generating. And as for the hotel operation, DMCI Homes has tapped the services of BRYCL Resorts International, a professional hotel management operator, to ensure that all units and facilities are well-maintained and to continually provide superior hotel service to unit owners as well as hotel guests.

Neighborhood

Alta Vista de Boracay is a neighborhood of 18 elegant three-story buildings spread out across four hectares of prime land. Buyers may decide to get a residential unit should they want to relocate already in Boracay or a condotel unit. For condotel units under the leaseback program, unit owners can stay in their units for 15 days each year for free.

The rest of the time, their units would be leased out to other hotel guests. Income generated from this and other rented out units would then be combined and 30 percent would be divided among the unit owners themselves, making Alta Vista de Boracay a truly sound investment.



CONSTRUCTING buildings on a hillside required careful planning and design.

Music keeps you emotionally . . .

From page B2-4

with any place or product is a combined assortment of sensory stimulation.

Rhythm of life

In the home, music enhances the rhythm of life. Waking, eating, entertaining and sleeping are often accompanied by a sound or a beat or a rhythm.

In various areas of the home, design and music go hand in hand in defining the ownership of space. Classical music and lounge sofas are best suited to the living room where everyone can enjoy both. Rock music and black and white interiors are for the angst-ridden male teen. Nursery rhymes with the magenta Barney posters are for the baby's room, and atmospheric music with dim lights are for the busy, couple's bedroom where they seek solace.

Unfortunately, catchy rhythms and soothing notes do not waft through the air from nothingness. Behind all the auditory stimuli is a complex assembly of wires, speakers, amplifiers, digital players and other equipment probably too new to be written about here. Although sound system technology has advanced tremendously in the past years, the physical features of the systems have not developed enough to make them negligible.

Hardly visible

At the very least, the variety of designs available in the market allow us to incorporate their various parts discreetly into walls and ceilings. In most public spaces, sound and music are heard but their source is hardly visible as they are concealed within coves, or camouflaged into the design elements. When difficult to conceal, an able architect or interior designer works magic and hides these unwanted elements of visual noise.

When properly selected, background sound becomes an articulating tool and reinforces our response to the stimuli of spatial design. Our experience of going through a space or perceiving visual elements are heightened as our senses work together in putting the melody, rhythm and beat of both sights and sounds into a unified perception.

It works for movies just as it does for spaces. Even after so may years, that mushy love song remains indelibly linked to DiCaprio.

Have it all at Eastwood LeGrand

WITH A PLETHORA OF PROPERTIES mushrooming in the metropolis, how does one decide which one to buy? Do you consider location above everything else, or would you prefer design? Would you rather have flexible payment terms, or a reputable developer? Do you prefer timeless elegance, or the comforts of modernity?

While the said questions may pose dilemmas to the serious buyer, smarter buyers know better: Why choose when you can have all of these qualities?

The answer lies in the magnificent property called Eastwood LeGrand, and it comes from one of the country's leading residential and business process outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums, top developer, property giant Megaworld Corp.

As John Natividad, Eastwood City Property Holdings vice president for marketing says: "Eastwood City remains the standard where all other new, modern business districts in the country are measured. Modernity, accessibility and convenience will be experienced by Eastwood LeGrand's privileged residents at the country's very first IT ecozone."

The 1.8-hectare Palm District, the new extension of Eastwood City, provides the perfect complement to the area's decidedly modern landscape. It offers a distinct residential oasis that the modern mobile man will find much to his satisfaction.

Crown jewel

The 38-story Eastwood LeGrand sits out as the crown jewel in this district. Designed as the ultimate urban village, LeGrand is the perfect hideaway for busy BPO executives and personnel who prefer spending their off-hours communing.

Built in the grand tradition of Art Deco that made New York's Chrysler Building famous, Eastwood LeGrand features decorative moldings at the top and stonework on the ground columns. A façade bathed in cheerful yellow hues is made more visually appealing by white window trims. Large, geometric stonework adorns its columns, while grayish-brown grillwork beautifies the lower floors up to the podium. The grand lobby sports a haughty French design, inviting everyone and anyone to take in the luxurious lifestyle.

THE VIBRANT nightlife at Eastwood City is an eagerly awaited daily experience for Eastwood LeGrand's future residents.

THE SEVENTH-FLOOR podium deck features luxurious amenities and an unrivaled view of the Eastwood City skyline.

EASTWOOD LeGrand's Art Deco architecture has garnered the affection of many overseas-based Filipino professionals and entrepreneurs.

Excellent panoramic view

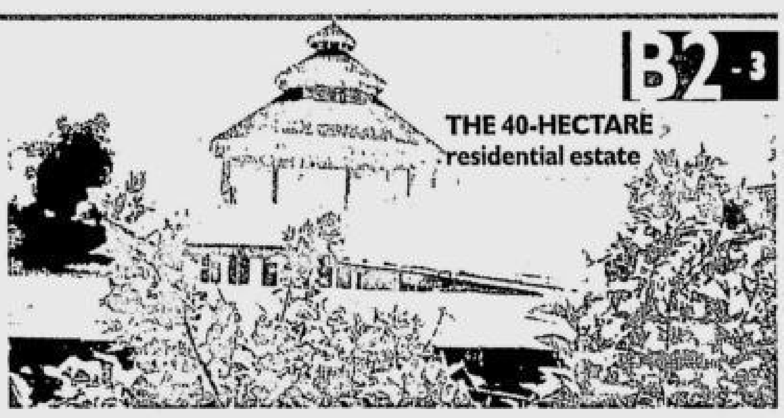
The property offers executive studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units (each with or without a balcony). Every unit provides an excellent panoramic view of the cityscape, and all units are tastefully designed to exude an aura of luxury, comfort and first-class esthetics.

Beneath the glitter and glamour of Eastwood LeGrand's high fashion lies a modern backbone. Four high-speed interior-finished elevators are at your disposal, while a ground-level commercial arcade is ready to take on your whims. Telephone lines, cable TV privileges and high-speed Internet access are all part of the package, as are ample parking, environment-friendly waste disposal systems, a generous water supply and tight 24-hour security.

In its preselling stages, Eastwood LeGrand is doing very well, as eager buyers snap up units as soon as they can. As developer Megaworld Corp. has recently announced that it will fast-track its completion, expect more to join the fray.

You have to see it for yourself to realize what everybody is talking about.

Communities Philippines' Wedgewood: a 40-hectare residential estate in Pangasinan


THE 40-HECTARE residential estate

PANGASINAN WITNESSED THE rise of the first themed, master-planned residential project in the locale when Communities Philippines began the development of The Wedgewood in Sta. Barbara more than 9 years ago. Today, the community has evolved into a grand-scale 40-hectare, full-blown residential estate. Communities Philippines marked another milestone of The Wedgewood with the recent opening of its sixth phase, The Willows of Wedgewood.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., Communities Philippines is the expert in converting the countryside into a landscape of sought-after enclaves and the first Manila-based developer to expand operations into key cities and municipalities across the country. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest home-builder offering the broadest spectrum of homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

RELAX at the exclusive recreational amenities of Wedgewood.

First 5 enclaves

An encompassing American country theme lends a warm and charming ambiance to every home and the whole neighborhood of The Wedgewood. Each of the first five enclaves presents a selection of living options to address the unique needs of different families:

- The Orchard of Wedgewood, with lots only packages;
- The Orchard Home Series, with a choice of carefully designed bungalow residences to suit beginning families;
- The Trails of Wedgewood, which features two-story homes;
- The Hills of Wedgewood, which offers both bungalow and two-story homes; and
- The Heights of Wedgewood, with a collection of bungalow and two-story homes, and lots only packages. A 100-hectare expansion for the enclave is already underway.

The newest phase, The Willows of Wedgewood, is a six-hectare lakefront expansion offering two-story residences and lots-only packages, which allow you to customize your American country-inspired home according to your family's lifestyle and needs.

Practical yet comfortable

Future residents of The Wedgewood can choose among the nine full two-story homes with floor areas beginning at 64 to 231 sq m on lots starting at 110 to 288 sq m; or choose the bungalow home series which presents practical yet comfortable options: Rosemary, Chamomile, Cranberry, Citronella and Celandine with floor areas ranging from 31 to 72 sq m on lots beginning at 88 to 154 sq m.

The whole estate features wide roads surrounded by lush landscaping which complements Pangasinan's natural sprawling terrain. Residents can also get a glimpse of renowned shrine of Nuestra Señora de Manaoag from The Wedgewood. Exclusive recreational facilities and amenities are found within the community such as a clubhouse, swimming pool, playing court and play parks.

Strategic location

The Wedgewood is strategically located in the center of Pangasinan's three major cities—Urdaneta, San Carlos and Dagupan—and is just five minutes from the McArthur national highway.

It is near educational institutions, hospitals, commercial and recreational areas, and places of worship.

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Mortaseal is easy to maintain over Elastomeric waterproofing materials. Leakage on concrete using Elastomeric waterproofing material causes delamination or wharfing on concrete substrate, eventually, rain water stays underneath the waterproofing membrane that causes leakage on concrete. In order to make repair, one needs to remove the entire existing waterproofing membrane by scrapping and replace it for a new one. While Mortaseal waterproofing is in powdered form, if ever leakage occurred, it is caused by crack or pinhole on concrete substrate. Once need repairs by patching using brush or trowel on the affected area is recommended.

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Ayala Center prepares to break ground for new hotel

AYALA CENTER IS ABUZZ WITH BUILDING new shopping, dining and entertainment facilities as it prepares to break ground for its new hotel project by yearend.

This was revealed by Jaime Ayala, president and chief executive of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) who said the new facilities assure both customers and mall tenants that there will be no reduction in available retail space and facilities as current buildings are removed to make way for the new hotels to be built in partnership with the Kingdom Hotel Investments.

"We will make sure that concerns of all Ayala Center patrons, from the mall customers to the existing tenants and retailers, are addressed as we implement our new programs for Ayala Center in the coming year," Ayala said.

Well underway is the construction of the Glorietta 5 (G5) and a new but still unnamed parking building, both designed to accommodate the movement of shops, entertainment and parking facilities as the 7,377-square-meter property at the corner of Makati Avenue and Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), where the Park Square 2 mall and transport terminals currently stand, is prepared to make way for the construction of the 300-room Fairmont Hotel, a 30-suite Raffles Hotel and 189 Raffles-branded residential units.

The hotel project is a US$153-million joint venture between the Ayala group and Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Alsaud, founder and chair of Dubai-based Kingdom Hotel Investments and listed as the world's 13th richest person and the "most successful businessman in the Middle East."

New buildings, more facilities

Slated to open in time for the start of the hotel projects in December, the new car park complex has begun to rise in the Ayala Center area bound by Makati Avenue, The Landmark, Glorietta 4 and The Shangri-La Hotel.

The car park will house 790 parking slots in six levels to replace those that will be affected with the decommissioning of Park Square 2. It will likewise have two bridgeway connections: one across Makati Avenue to Greenbelt 4 and the other across North Drive to The Landmark Department Store.

Aside from parking, the new building will have almost 3,000 sq m on its ground level for new and exciting retail and entertainment space. Furthermore, improvement in vehicle access facilities has been part of the meticulous planning from the start. First, there is the construction of Long Queuing lanes at the entrance ramp of the parking facility facing Shangri-La Hotel. Second, the adjacent North Drive facing The Landmark shall be further expanded to five lanes, with three entering and two exiting the Ayala Center.

On the other hand the new G5 building will be located at the area surrounded by Ayala Avenue, Hotel Intercontinental, Glorietta 4 (G4) and Rustan's. G5 will also bring many current Park Square 2 tenants closer to customer access. These include the mobile telephone and accessories shops as well as service-oriented establishments currently in Park Square 2.

Beyond the transfer, however, G5 will have three levels of retail space covering 9,700 sq m and five levels of office space totaling 16,000 sq m. Parking space lost at the Park Square 2 will likewise be adequately augmented as G5 will have 291 parking slots in its two underground levels. Furthermore, this will be connected by a tunnel to the existing multilevel parking of G4, making access smooth and easy to all basement parking facilities in the Glorietta area. The G5 facility is scheduled to be completed in October 2008.

Major modifications to any well established landscape will involve major changes in established operational patterns and behavior—having to "bite the sour apple" to get things done. In Ayala Center's case it is taking steps to ensure that the apple is palatable as possible for all customers and tenants.

Proactive steps

Another key area where Ayala Center management has taken proactive steps is keeping construction noise and debris levels at a minimum for the new car park building due to its proximity to Shangri-La Hotel. Careful scheduling of specific phases of construction work and employment of modern construction technologies ensure that hotel guests and functions are not bothered by the new multilevel car park building.

Constant communication and coordination between Shangri-La Hotel and Ayala Center planning and operations personnel are also in place to ensure the safety and well-being of hotel patrons and residents. Meanwhile, the same level of engagement is being undertaken by Ayala Center with Hotel Intercon, which is located adjacent to G5.

For the commuting public, enclosed and secure FX and jeepney terminals are being prepared at the Edsa Carpark and Park Square 1, respectively, providing easier access to the MRT-Ayala station. Buses, on the other hand, shall be going through a looped route on regular intervals throughout the Central Business District instead of remaining static in a fixed terminal.

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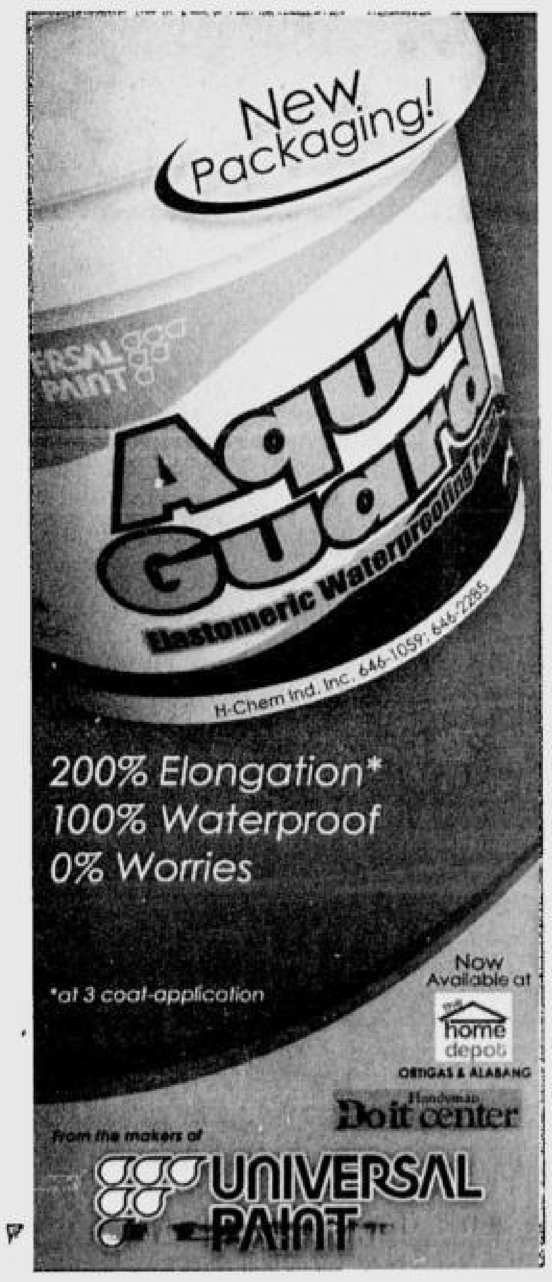

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Music keeps you emotionally connected to a visual space

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

REMEMBER THE "TITANIC" MOVIE? What would it have been like without its anthem, that mushy song that insinuated undying love over and over during the romantic highlights of the movie? The music was so repetitive and (I'll admit!) catchy, that it still stimulates the image of a half-submerged cruise ship and Leonardo DiCaprio in my head when I hear it.

The suspense flick, the "Blair Witch," had no mushy love song but had sounds of huffing, puffing and shrieking that sent me into full cover: I had to cup my hands over my ears to at least cut the horror by half. The film was an ingenious home-made film that was truly nerve-wracking. The sounds of anguish and the haunting imagery made it truly harrowing.

Engaging experience

The collective sensation of sound and sight can certainly create an engaging experience—one that is real and truly memorable. I have realized in my practice that the experience of design can likewise be heightened by sound or music.

Restaurants, malls, clubhouses and any other public spaces exploit this advantage and usually have some form of auditory influence infused into the whole concept of product, design and service. They know all too well that we now live in the experience economy, and the emotional connection made

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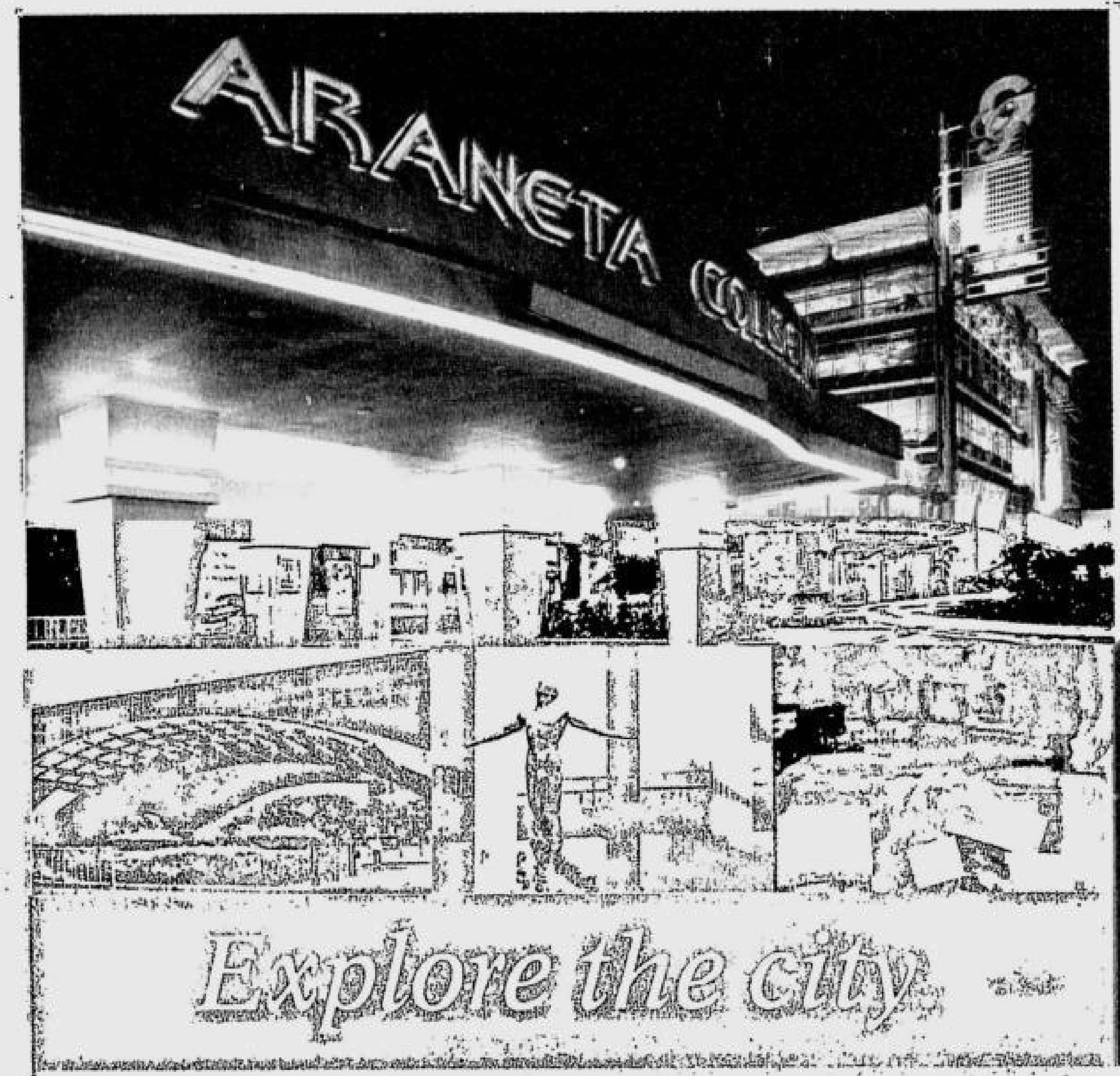

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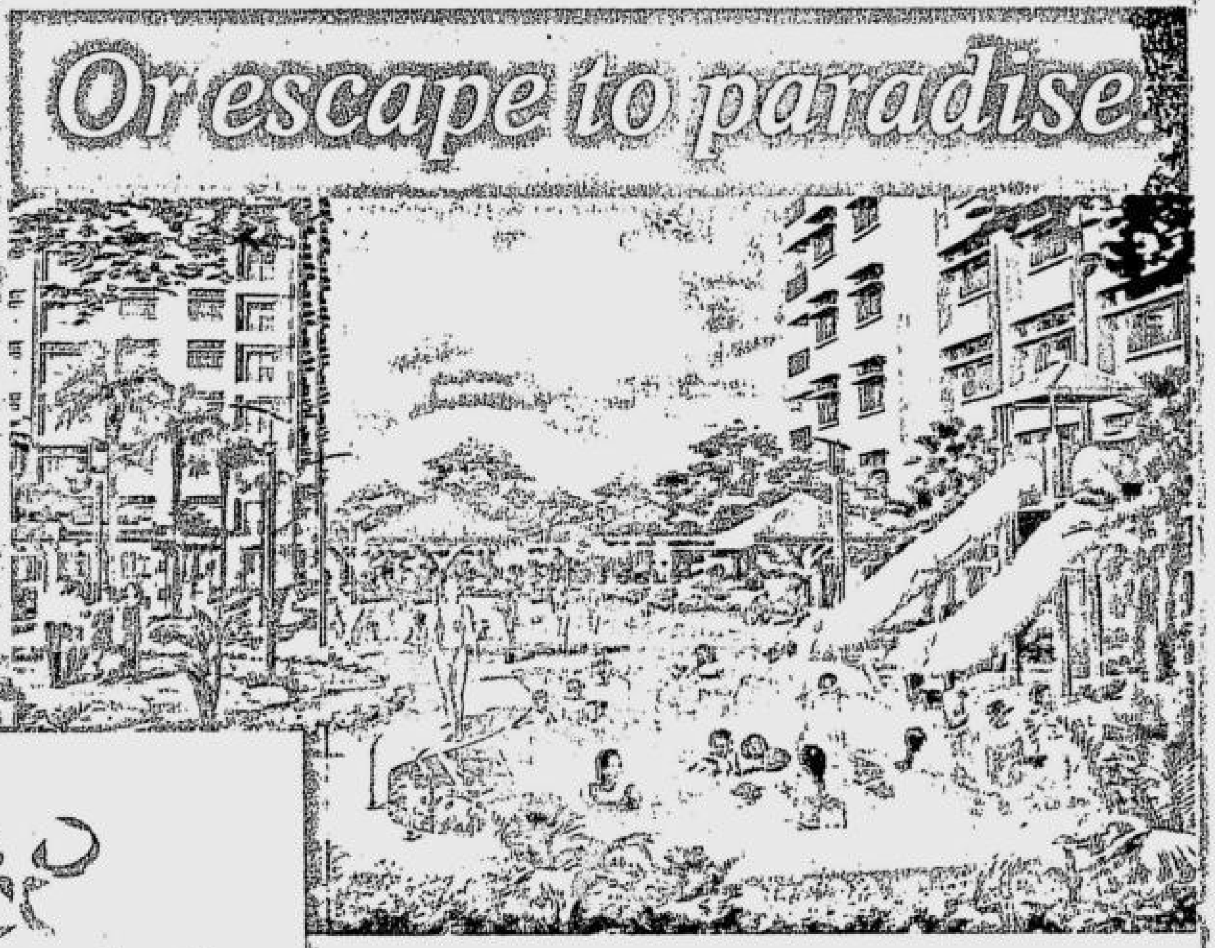
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TriNoma	Glorietta	Market! Market!	Ayala Center Cebu	Alabang Town Center
21 September	22 September	23 September	26 September	28 September
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Activity Center	Activity Center	Activity Center	OnStage	Activity Center
Concierge Hotline: 901-3000	Concierge Hotline: 752-7272	Concierge Hotline: 886-7519	Concierge Hotline: (032) 231-5342 loc. 324	Concierge Hotlines: 842-2782; 772-1860

Glorietta Alabang Town Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! TriNoma

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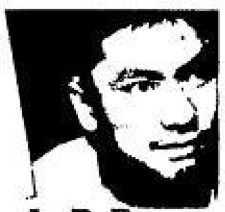
The unbearable lightness of Teresa

Teresa Herrera joins the world peace wave with the Global Mala Project

LOST IN TRANSIT



Paolo R. Reyes

Photography by TOM EPPERSON
Makeup by SABS HERNANDEZ for Lancôme Paris
Hair by JAKE GALVEZ using L'Oreal Professional, assisted by ELLAH TANGO
Tangerine Aria Dress and Diniwid Kaftan by ISLA (www.islaresortcollection.com)
Leather cuff available at Aura Athletica

IF THE EYES ARE THE WINdows to the soul, then one glimpse at Teresa Herrera's tantalizing set in pale jade will inspire you to change the world—through yoga, that is.

Today, the Santa Monica-based actress and trance dance yoga instructor welcomes yogis, would-be yogis, and soul-centered individuals of every stripe to venture beyond the borders of their mats and join a unified collective in the Global Mala Project, the largest worldwide yoga event dedicated to positive change.

Call it a global peace wave, if you will. Or yoga as peace in action. Coinciding with the United Nations International Peace Day weekend, the international event calls on like-minded participants from 35 countries and 108 cities to form a form a symbolic "mala" or sacred circle around the earth. (Incidentally, 108 is also the number of prayer beads strung together to form a "mala," a meditation guide used in India and Tibet.)

"With the rising threat of global warming, the illusion of separateness is dissolving around the world," shares Shiva Rea, world renowned Yoga teacher and catalyst for the Global Mala Project. "Yoga is one of the few common denominators for millions of people around the world. Together we are creating a circle around the earth and dedicating our energy to peace."

Meditation is, after all, widely considered to be the most powerful spiritual technology on the planet, especially for the transfiguration of individual and collective consciousness. For Herrera and thousands of supportive celebrities—including Sting, Christy Turlington, Jennifer Aniston, and Ziggy Marley—lending their names to a worthy cause was the least they could do to raise funds for the most pressing issues of our times.

"Teaching yoga is my 'seva'—my service to the world," says Herrera, who has been pursuing a klieg-lit career in the City of Angels since the late 1990s. Under the aegis of Rea, her mentor, she was trained in Prana Vinyasa Flow and Yoga Trance Dance. Her intuitive and fluid teaching style carefully nurtures students as they explore their bodies on the path of yoga.

In Manila, the Global Mala Project will take place today, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., at the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion (100 Park Ave., McKinley Hill, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig), which will be transformed into a super-powered yogic utopia.

An assembly of instructors (including Berta Lopez-Feliciano, Bela Lipat, Hoze Arando, and Raya Mananquil) will steer participants through an enlightening day of meditation, lectures, zipping clinics, tribal drumming workshops, and yoga trance dance led by Herrera herself. In lieu of tickets, the entrance fee is a suggested donation of P1,200 to Bantay Bata and Trees for the Future.

Can yoga truly change the world? It's hard to imagine, really. But one should never underestimate the earth-shaking power of a collective body thinking—and breathing—as one.

For more information, visit globalmala.org and teresaherreralive.blogspot.com.

Go with the flow!

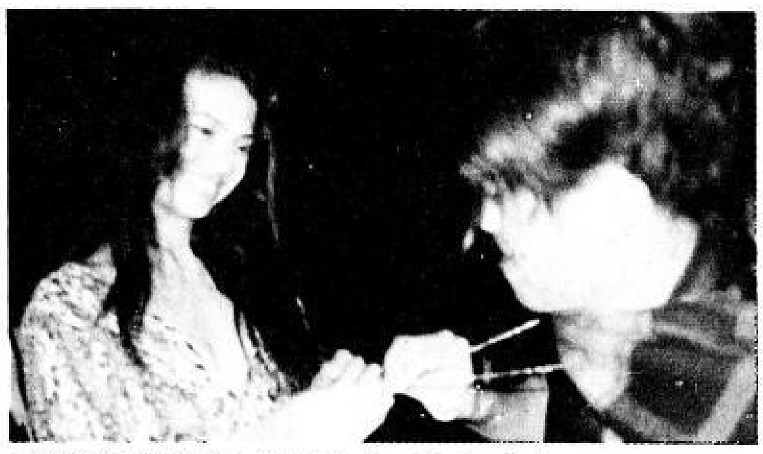
The Global Mala Project Itinerary

8:30 a.m.: Sign-In and Welcome Greetings
9 a.m.: Opening "Om" (Gayatri Mantra) led by Hoze Arando and Teresa Herrera
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Berta Lopez-Feliciano, Bela Lipat, and Raya Mananquil lead 108 Rounds of Surya Namaskar
12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m.: A lecture by Jeannie Javelosa on The Essence of Soul Destiny
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.: Lunch at the "Bollywood Lounge," with music by DJ Manolet Dario
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Poi Zipping Workshop led by Cat Juan and Planet Zips
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Tribal Drumming Workshop led by David and Donna Esteban
5 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.: Fire Dancing Performance accompanied by live drumming (led by Planet Zips and Drum Workshop participants)
6 p.m.: Dinner
6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.: Kirtan led by Punnu Singh Wasu and Charanjit Singh Wasu
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.: Yoga Trance Dance led by Teresa Herrera
10 p.m.: Closing "Om"

All levels of participation are welcome! Bring your owns mats, cushions, and blankets, and be prepared to sweat.

PEEPS Keys 'n tell

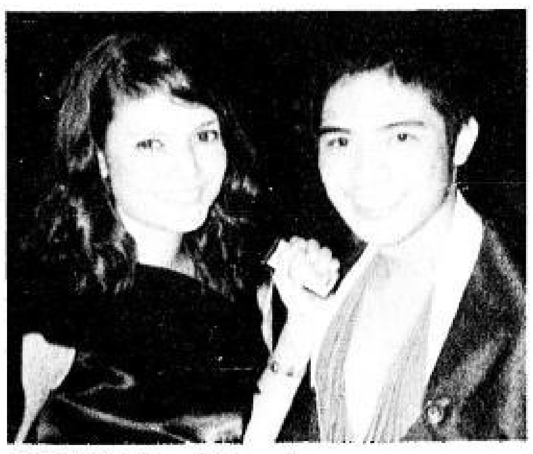
Ulterior Motive: *Evolution by Shu Uemura, Motorola and Globe Platinum*
Crime Scene: *NBC Tent*
Release Date: *Sept. 20, 2007*



CHAIN IN VAIN. Priscilla Meirelles tries her lock

PEACE OUT. Victor Basa signs in

SHU IN. Tina Tinio and Tesa Dragon



BOXING Helena Belmonte

ON KEY. JM Rodriguez

PEEP OF THE WEEK. Cell shocked

RANDOM peopleness

PHONE PALS. Stephen Ku, Paolo Paraiso and Mari Litonjua

PUEY-FECT! Puey Quiñones

SEXY'S BACK! Xeng Zulueta back in town

Rockstar: Rivermaya

WHO will be their next bandmate?

13 FINALISTS, FROM ALMOST 500 hopefuls who flocked to the auditions, made it to the first episode of "Rivermaya: Bagong Liwanag." The search for the newest member of "Ang Banda ng Bayan" airs every Sunday at 9:15 p.m. on Studio 23, with the grand finals on Oct. 24.

Each episode in the seven-week season gives viewers a behind-the-scenes peek on what it takes to be in a rock band, as the finalists face a different musical challenge every week. After all, these hundreds of hopefuls are no different from the members of Rivermaya who tried out at the band's first auditions in 1998.

Stay tuned!

WE STAND CORRECTED

In the Sept. 1 issue we erroneously mentioned the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and Sentro as part of the clientele of Futura Extra Bold Design. Our bad.

merit

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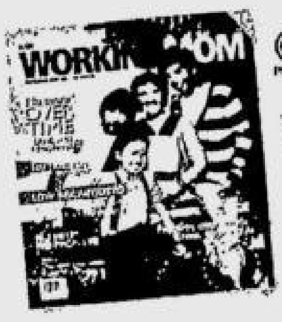

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For inquiries and pre-registration, please call Enna Santos at 415-2272 local 4656 or email at ennamichelle_santos@abs-cbn.com

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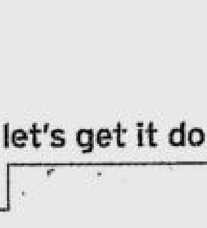
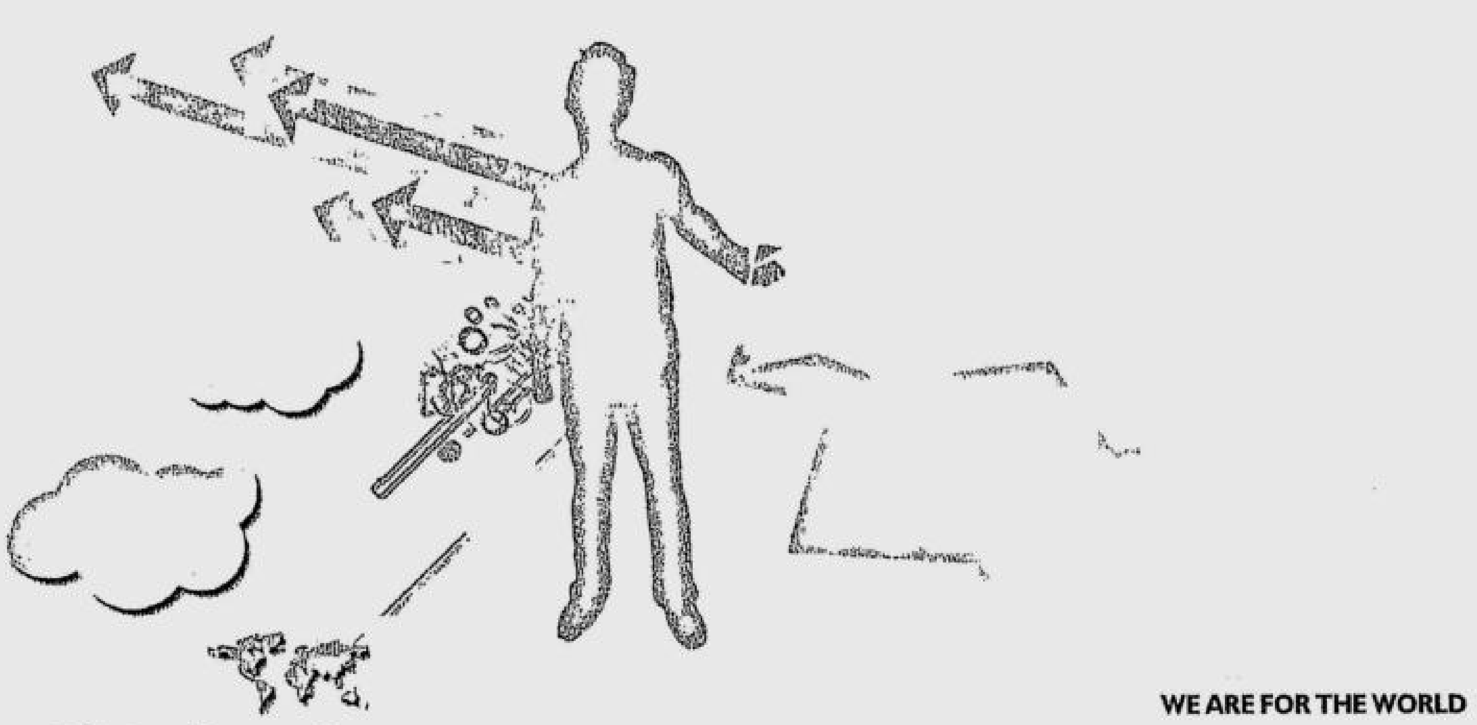


Rock, paper, scissors

THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

Our lives are simple—we'll grasp this once we quit playing games with our own hearts



ARTWORK BY DAE LEE

WE ARE FOR THE WORLD

IN 2004, ROBERT Drummond set in motion a video project called "Northern Lights," which he described in an interview with RES Magazine as "a journeyman-style piece wrapped around my personal experience."

Working in real time and real space during the winter season, he spent 90 days all by himself on a rocket base in Churchill, Canada for a reason—to probe into the Aurora Borealis.

The product of the arduous experience was "Northern Lights." Using video projections on 3D glass sculpture assisted by delicate electronic music, Drummond created holograms, paying homage to the form that changed the way he looked at art as a kid.

With the video project, Drummond established that art and science should always assume complementary roles, each functioning with respect to the other's capabilities in discerning the stories of our humanity. He posits that real-life experience, more than any textbook theorem, is the key to understanding the world around us.

Manipulative variable

Auroras, appearing normally as arcs and streaks, flicker and brighten the night sky. Their simplicity, when conveyed using the intricate structure of holograms, produces an astonishing contrast of forms.

At the same time, the union serves as a commentary on living in today's world. In efforts to come across external beauty, we take part in road trips to different places amidst the never-ending detours. We try out the most mundane things to see if they'll work for us, congratulating our friends who successfully find the perfect car, the perfect pair of jeans, the perfect pill.

But there will always be a stumbling block. There's always room for experimentation, I was told in drawing class; soon I learned the hard way that there are limits to everything.

Across vast hurdles, we strive to order the chaos around us, making choices left and right, editing out the energies that bother us. This decision-making results to new friendships, environments, opportunities. In the process of discovering about the world one corner at a time, we learn about our own existence.

Global guts

Ours is a generation of fools—not because of our stupidity, or of our selfishness, but of our guts to try to change the world at such young ages. Because while it is true that silly things easily charm us, some of us still know what the important things are.

At a time when people are labeling us collectively as the Me Generation, we ought to prove them wrong by renewing our personal struggles to prefer what is right and what is good.

Begin by giving everything for love. There are two roads in life, they say. Snub the road where you can live better and select the path of duty where you can create waves of change. By giving yourself to things that are of a higher nature than anything in this material world, you prop up not a culture of self-gratification, but a life of no-strings-attached self-giving.

A life focused on one's self is, ultimately, boring. Aside from self-giving being one of the most beautiful acts a human being can do, it's also implausibly exciting.

Telling the truth without injuring

Then, sleep without the lights on. In other words, be brave. Don't be surprised to encounter friends who'll discourage you, who'll question your sanity, who'll ask you to sit down for a minute and experience how it feels to just relax, contented with the way the world is working.

You can be simple without being gullible, natural without being frail. Perhaps what we truly need at the moment is a real rebel—not another predictable stereotype. At the end of the day, his or her grit will break the barrier of silence and misinformation that isolates.

In Danish, *efterklang* means both "reverberation" and "remembrance"—two words that you need to be able to truly move forward. Like for an athlete dreaming to compete in the Olympics, there is a need to form one's self before tackling the tricky beats and melodies with other people.

If we want to influence the world, we have to do it step by step, brick by brick, beginning with our own selves. Armed with honesty, utmost sincerity and the desire to really progress, face the mirror now.

Against the grain

While trying to turn the game of rock, paper and scissors into elements of a revolt against selfishness, always keep in mind that you don't have to be boring.

Some may perceive simplicity and naturalness with being run of the mill; but in fact, when you think about it, living a good life is very attractive—something we all wish to do.

While attention to aesthetics is fine, it is still what's inside you that is most important. As Nigo, the founder of A Bathing Ape, Tokyo's most visible fashion brand, puts it, "Functionality is very important to me. I go after cool, but I also have a great regard for content."

Decipher the excessive products of development and choose instead to concentrate on the basics. I've grown up thinking in fictional terms, after being submerged to the world of fantasy and science fiction at such a young age. Yet it intrigues me that I don't find technological progress remarkable.

The most important thing, I think, is to communicate well. Speed is not vital. We have fellow Filipinos beating on drums to communicate, and no matter how slow the transmission time is, their messages are often more meaningful than ours. On a similar note, consider that the reason why art is enduring is because the basics are always there.

Reality is a superhologram

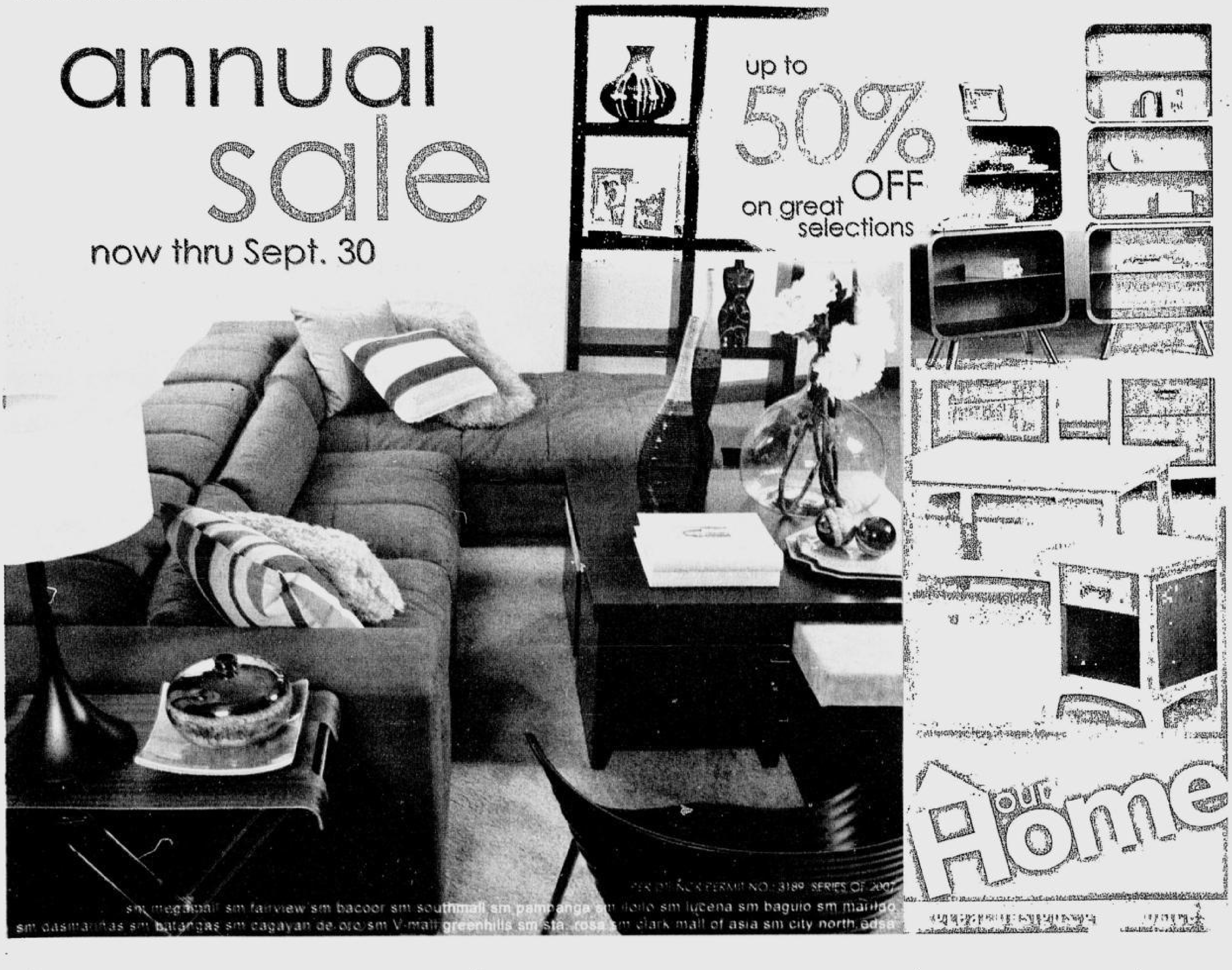
David Bohm, a physicist from the University of London, believes that the universe is a giant, detailed hologram where all subatomic particles are extensions of the same thing. If Bohm's claim is true, this means that all of us have a deep connection with each other, which gives us more reason to genuinely care for the relationships we build.

At the same time, there is a need to guard the heart. While trusting people is great, keep watch of the little things that prick without you even noticing it. Do away with greed and lust, and demonstrate what true manliness is about by simply not acting like an animal. It will be hard, but the struggle will lead you to fish the understanding of what it means to be happy.

Finally, learn to limit yourself, to have tons of restraint. Don't ever feel restricted, as if your freedom of expression is being taken away. Restraint is a discipline that allows you to concentrate on positive thoughts, a measure that lets you see the true essence of the good things.

Keeping in mind the deep harmony that exists between culture and faith, consider that it is not enough to merely eliminate all the negativity in our current environment. We have to create the culture, the world, the home that we want to live in.

Have faith in this world. Give yourself. It's a jungle out there; but don't you think it's bloody exhilarating to venture into the dark regions especially when you know you're armed with the right weapons?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super

'Heroes' Worship

Blame it on 'Heroes,' a new slew of Supernatural TV is now available for your downloading pleasure

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THERE WAS ALWAYS something fishy about the "reality" part of Reality TV. For there was nothing too authentic about Lord of the Fly-like social experiments on deserted islands, or faceless authoritarians barking out orders to human lab rats. If anything, the whole Reality TV phenom was more of a slew of well-documented videos inspired by science fiction. It was art imitating life.

And right on cue, following the rubberband logic of pop-cultural consciousness, the knee-jerk reaction to this deformed reality overdose is its diametric opposite: not just fantasy but magical reality. The cult hit "Heroes" leads this television renaissance, glorifying the antihero protagonist: ordinary people who discover they have extraordinary abilities (and bodies nothing short of science fictional, might I add). It was high time we saw brothers flying and exploding in the sky, rogues phasing through walls and peppy cheerleaders pulling shards out of their skulls. Our imaginations were in dire need of it, especially after an era of atrophy with the reality TV blokes exalting ordinariness. Mediocrity never was, and never will be, cool.

Looks like "Heroes" cast a spell on television, spawning a whole new lineup of shows exhibiting similar DNA with fantastical plots and protagonists that exhibit familiar superpowers. (Thereby making our local versions of "Mulawin" and "Encantadia" ahead of its time!) Television historian Tim Brooks explains this trend in the L.A. Times as an audience backlash: viewers are getting fed up with [illegible] shows and all the gritty realism. Thanks also to improved camera techniques and computer-aided special effects, the fantastical elements of these sci-fi dramedies are neatly woven in like...um, magic!

Here's a look at the supernatural selections, soon to boost your late-night downloading habits (or the sales of your favorite *dibidi* agent).

Journeyman

Featured Superpower:
Time Travel

Heroes prototype:
Hiro Nakamura

This show is frontlined by Dan Vasser, a time traveler who can go to the past to fix up people's lives for the better. Of course, applying the whole timeline paradox (read, or at least do a quick Wiki: "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury), interfering in the past doesn't always make things better in the present.

HEROES/D3

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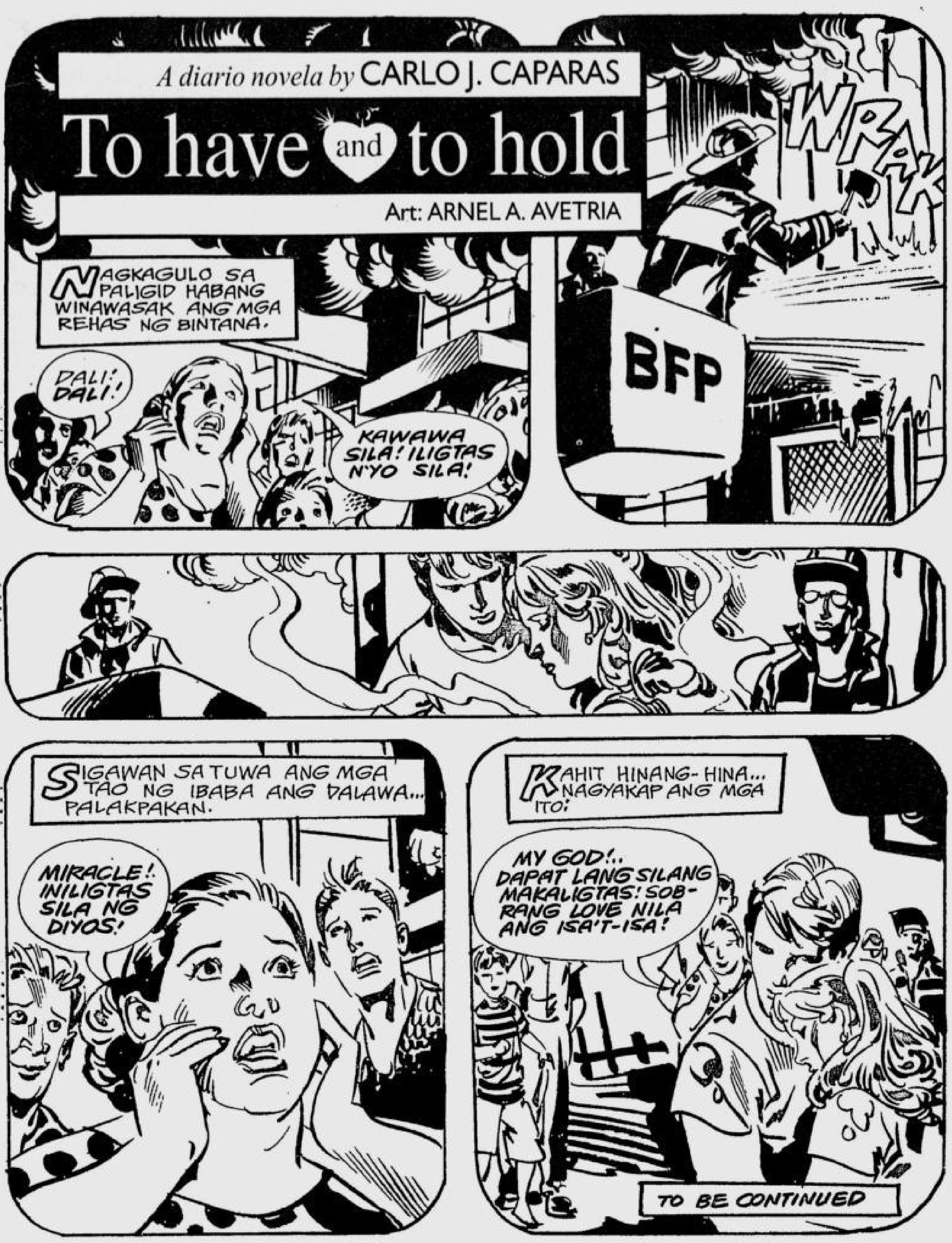
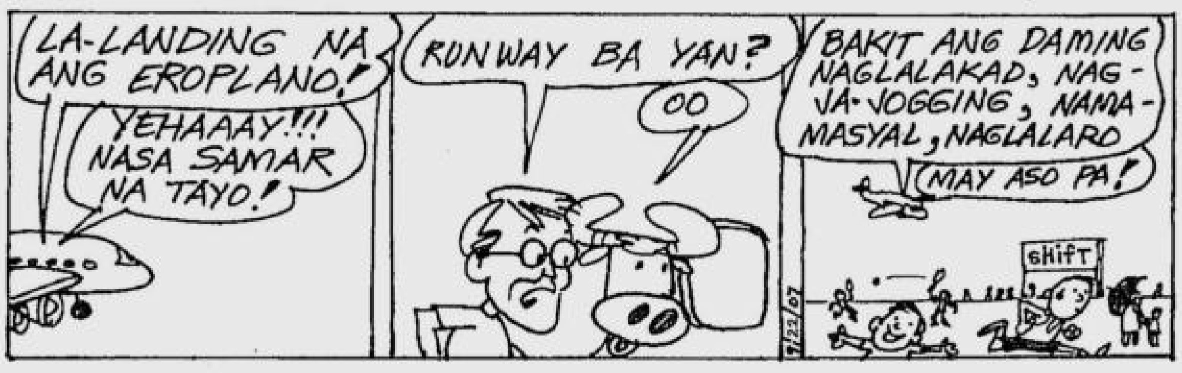
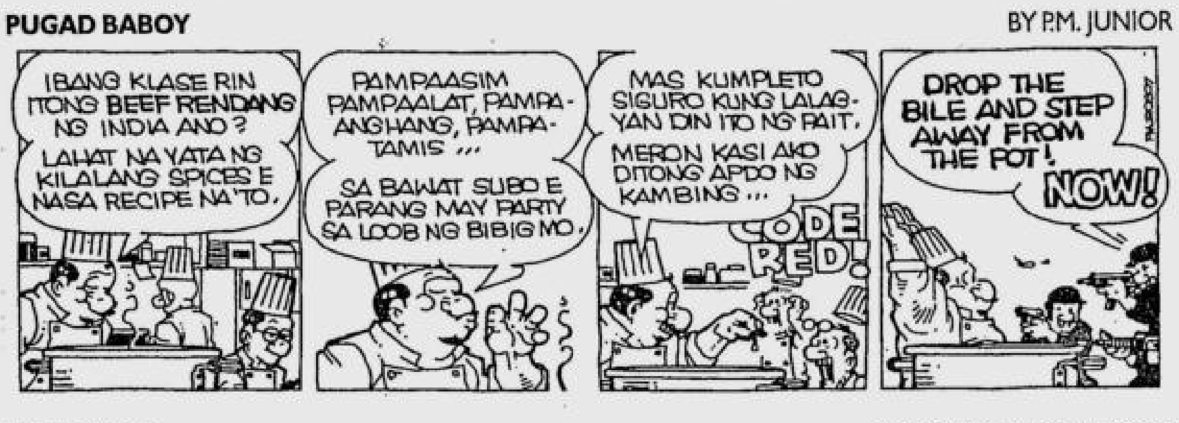

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
NAGKAGULO SA PALIGID HABANG WINAWASAK ANG MGA REHAS NG BINTANA.
DALI! DALI!
KAWAWA SILA! ILIGTAS N'YO SILA!
WRAK
BFP
SIGAWAN SA TUWA ANG MGA TAO NG IBABA ANG DALAWA... PALAKPAKAN.
MIRACLE! INILIGTAS SILA NG DIYOS!
KAHIT HINANG-HINA... NAGYAKAP ANG MGA ITO!
MY GOD!.. DAPAT LANG SILANG MAKALIGTAS! SOBRANG LOVE NILA ANG ISA'T-ISA!
TO BE CONTINUED

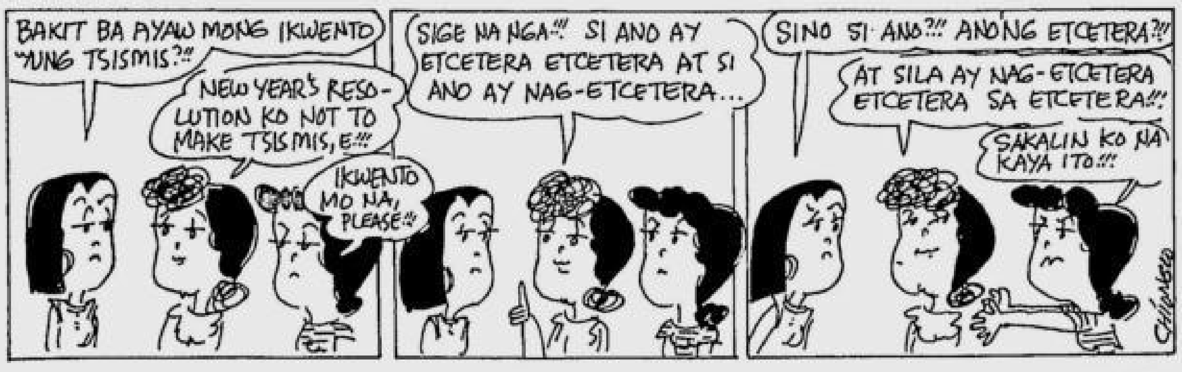
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


LA-LANDING NA ANG EROPLANO!
YEHAAAY!!! NASA SAMAR NA TAYO!
RUNWAY BA YAN?
OO
BAKIT ANG DAMING NAGLALAKAD, NAG-JA-JOGGING, NAMAMASYAL, NAGLALARO
MAY ASO PA!
SHIFT

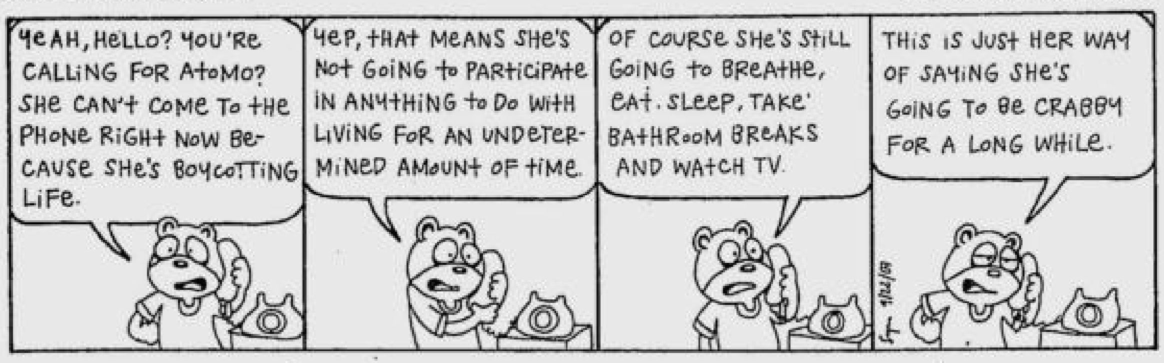
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IBANG KLASE RIN ITONG BEEF RENDANG NG INDIA ANO?
LAHAT NA YATA NG KILALANG SPICES E NASA RECIPE NA 'TO.
PAMPAASIM PAMPAALAT, PAMPA-ANGHANG, PAMPA-TAMIS...
SA BAWAT SUBO E PARANG MAY PARTY SA LOOB NG BIBIG MO.
MAS KUMPLETO SIGURO KUNG LALAGYAN DIN ITO NG PAIT.
MERON KASI AKO DITONG APDO NG KAMBING...
CODE RED!
DROP THE BILE AND STEP AWAY FROM THE POT! NOW!

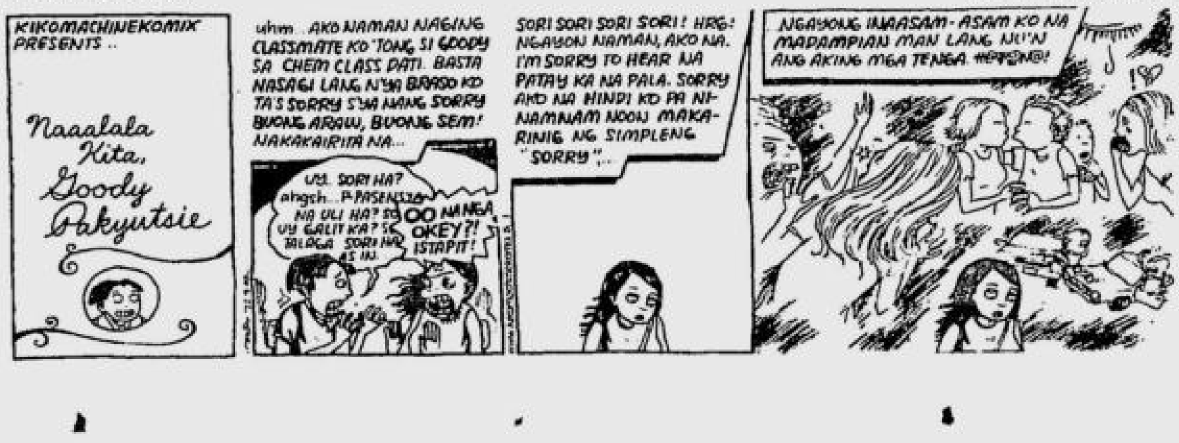
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT BA AYAW MONG IKWENTO 'YUNG TSISMIS?!!
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION KO NOT TO MAKE TSISMIS, E!!!
IKWENTO MO NA, PLEASE!!
SIGE NA NGA!!! SI ANO AY ETCETERA ETCETERA AT SI ANO AY NAG-ETCETERA...
SINO SI ANO?!!! ANO'NG ETCETERA?!!
AT SILA AY NAG-ETCETERA ETCETERA SA ETCETERA!!!
SAKALIN KO NA KAYA ITO!!!
CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YEAH, HELLO? YOU'RE CALLING FOR ATOMO? SHE CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE SHE'S BOYCOTTING LIFE.
YEP, THAT MEANS SHE'S NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN ANYTHING TO DO WITH LIVING FOR AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF TIME.
OF COURSE SHE'S STILL GOING TO BREATHE, EAT, SLEEP, TAKE BATHROOM BREAKS AND WATCH TV.
THIS IS JUST HER WAY OF SAYING SHE'S GOING TO BE CRABBY FOR A LONG WHILE.

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS..
Naaalala Kita, Goody Pakyutsie
uhm.. AKO NAMAN NAGING CLASSMATE KO 'TONG SI GOODY SA CHEM CLASS DATI. BASTA NASAGI LANG N'YA BRASO KO TA'S SORRY S'YA NANG SORRY BUONG ARAW, BUONG SEM! NAKAKAIRITA NA...
UY. SORI HA?
ahgch... P.PASENSYA NA ULI HA?
UY GALIT KA? TALAGA SORI HA AS IN.
OO NANGA, OKEY?! ISTAPIT!
SORI SORI SORI SORI! HRG! NGAYON NAMAN, AKO NA. I'M SORRY TO HEAR NA PATAY KA NA PALA. SORRY AKO NA HINDI KO PA NINAMNAM NOON MAKARINIG NG SIMPLENG "SORRY"..
NGAYONG INAASAM-ASAM KO NA MADAMPIAN MAN LANG NU'N ANG AKING MGA TENGA.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bird of prey
7 Conciliator
15 Don vestments
16 Language of Katmandu
17 Having no motion
18 Plea
19 Composed
21 Two thousand pounds
22 N. Mandela's org.
23 Multiplication word
24 Merrill of "Butterfield 8"
25 Certain military officer
28 Kuwait's ruler
29 Traps
30 Seek mercy
31 Kisser
32 Fox or turkey dance
34 Goddess of agriculture
37 Inflammation of the spinal column
41 Shakespeare's river
42 Like Tiffany glass
44 Pen points
45 Propelled a raft
46 RR depot
47 Poem of praise
48 Automotive part with a cap
51 Spread throughout
53 Herbal infusion
54 In the experimental stage
55 Click beetle
56 Celebrity trackers
57 Puts off until a later time

DOWN
1 Change dimensions
2 Scalia of the Supreme Court
3 Struts like a steed
4 Wee ones
5 Final bio?
6 Students saying lessons by rote
7 Souls from Greece
8 Of a fast period
9 Superlatively suitable
10 Joker
11 Pub pint
12 When scones are served
13 Tallinn's location
14 "__ the Fox"
20 Fork features
24 Triangular
26 Releases from confinement
27 Greek letters
30 D.C. old-timers
32 "Ladder of Years" novelist
33 Made additional cuts
34 Very bright star in Argo
35 Plain to see
36 "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" singer Flack
37 Soda-shop orders
38 Having a will
39 Monotone utterer
40 Long lookers
42 Addictive narcotic
43 Placard
48 Carrel furniture
49 Digestive fluid
50 Letters on B-52's
52 Allen or Blanc

1	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15						■	16							
17						■	18							
19						20					■	21		
22			■	■	23					■	24			
25			26	27						■	28			
29							■	■	30					
■	■	■	31			■	32	33			■	■	■	■
34	35	36			■	■	37				38	39	40	
41				■	42	43								
44				■	45					■	■	46		
47			■	48						49	50			
51			52					■	53					
54								■	55					
56								■	57					

By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
9/22/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

D	U	N	N	O	■	M	O	E	N	■	P	U	T	T
I	S	A	A	C	■	A	P	S	E	■	A	R	O	O
P	A	B	S	T	■	Z	E	A	L	■	B	S	M	T
■	■	■	H	O	N	O	L	U	L	U	L	U	L	U
S	W	C	■	P	A	L	■	■	■	T	U	L	I	P
W	I	C	H	I	T	A	L	I	N	E	M	A	N	■
A	S	I	A	■	■	■	I	S	A	R	■	■	■	■
P	H	I	L	A	D	E	L	P	H	I	A	U	S	A
■	■	■	■	N	I	N	A	■	■	■	E	P	E	E
■	K	A	N	S	A	S	C	I	T	Y	S	T	A	R
I	N	D	I	E	■	■	■	C	U	E	■	O	T	O
V	I	V	A	L	A	S	V	E	G	A	S	■	■	■
A	V	E	C	■	G	L	O	B	■	S	T	A	F	F
N	E	R	I	■	R	O	T	O	■	T	Y	P	E	A
I	S	B	N	■	A	P	E	X	■	Y	E	R	B	A

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CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	2			9			3	
			4		5			
		6				8		
	3			2			7	
5			9	4	6			2
	1			5			8	
		4				5		
			8		9			
	7			1			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/22

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Answer to previous puzzle

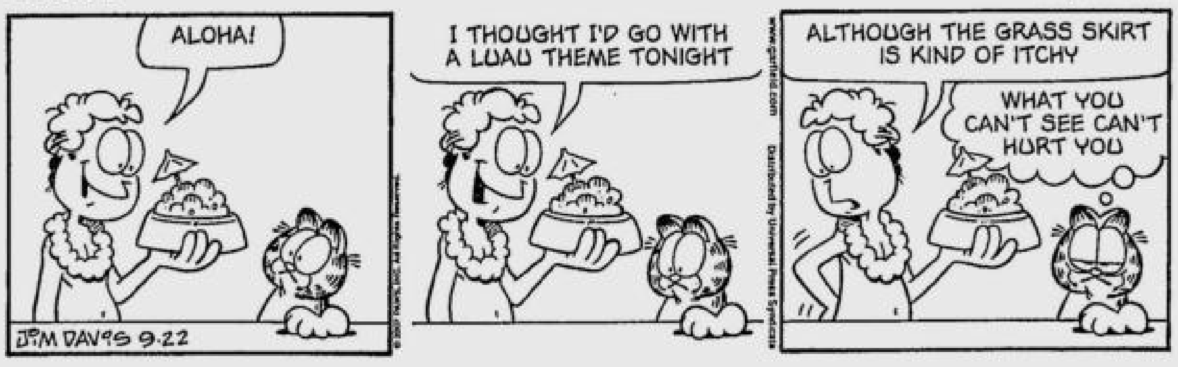
4	5	2	6	7	3	1	8	9
3	7	6	9	8	1	4	5	2
9	1	8	2	5	4	6	7	3
7	4	1	3	2	6	8	9	5
5	2	9	7	4	8	3	1	6
6	8	3	5	1	9	7	2	4
8	3	4	1	9	2	5	6	7
1	9	5	4	6	7	2	3	8
2	6	7	8	3	5	9	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/21

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


ALOHA!
JIM DAVIS 9-22
I THOUGHT I'D GO WITH A LUAU THEME TONIGHT
ALTHOUGH THE GRASS SKIRT IS KIND OF ITCHY
WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE CAN'T HURT YOU

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Being born on the cusp, you have the crisp intelligence of Virgo and the warm, social skills of Libra. You love a lively debate. You need lots of love and affection in your life. You enjoy being in a partnership, and you think about this a lot. Work hard to build or construct something in the next year. Your rewards will soon follow!

Birthdate of: Andrea Bocelli, tenor; Tai Babilonia, Olympic figure skater; Bonnie Hunt, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Conversations with a female friend might be important today. Someone needs to talk to you, or perhaps you need to talk.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Likely you will call attention to yourself today. Be aware of this. Be conscious of your words, your actions and your appearance. What kind of impression are you creating?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Try to do something different today. You're in the mood for adventure. (You certainly will be bored with routine.) Go someplace you've never been before.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to tackle red-tape items related to insurance matters, inheritances, wills, debt, taxes and shared property. Clean up some loose details in these areas.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. The Moon is opposite your sign, so just be patient. In two weeks, it's your turn!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Focus on getting better organized today. Reduce the clutter where you live and where you work. When there's less clutter around you, there's less clutter in your mind as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a fun-loving, romantic, flirtatious day. Make plans to meet someone for a few laughs. Enjoy playful activities with children.

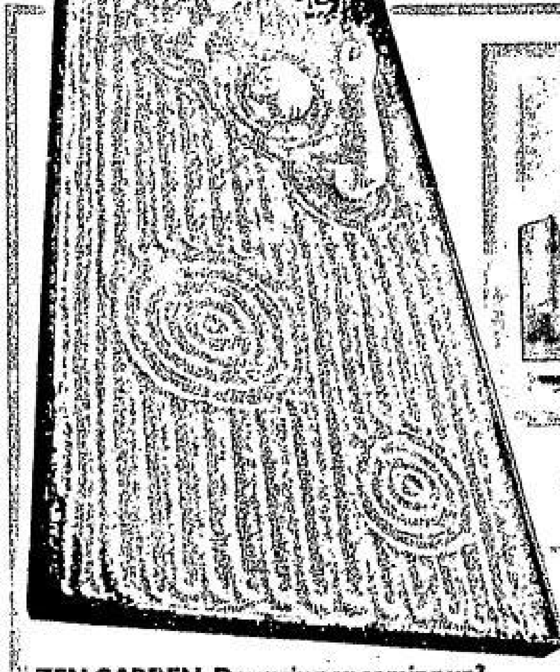
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Home, family and domestic needs are first today. Conversations with a parent might be significant. If possible, stay at home and putter around the place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a busy day! Short trips, errands, conversations with siblings and relatives, buying and selling, plus reading, writing and studying are just some things that keep you busy today.

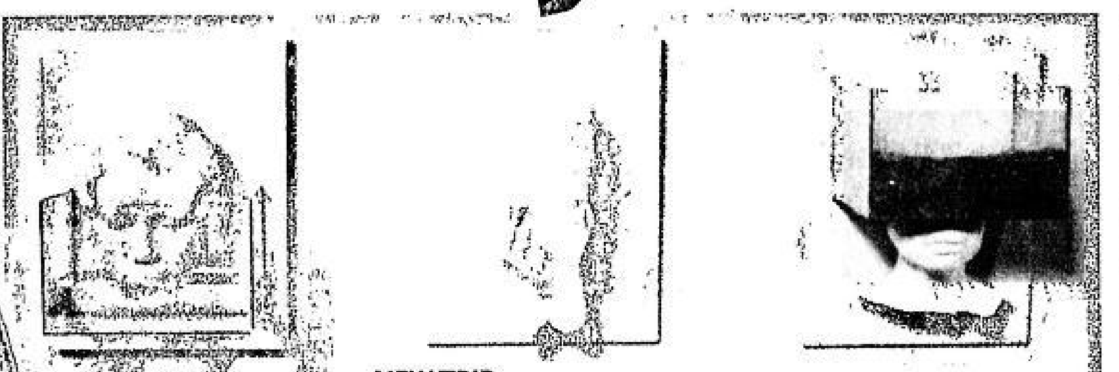
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Check your bank account. Pay attention to your cash flow and your financial transactions. You might be shopping today as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon is in your sign today. Although this can make you a bit more emotional than usual, it also brings you a little bit of extra good luck.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need some moments of private, quiet seclusion today. Try to steal this for yourself if you can. Go somewhere and do the crossword or the Suduko in this paper. You need some thinking time.

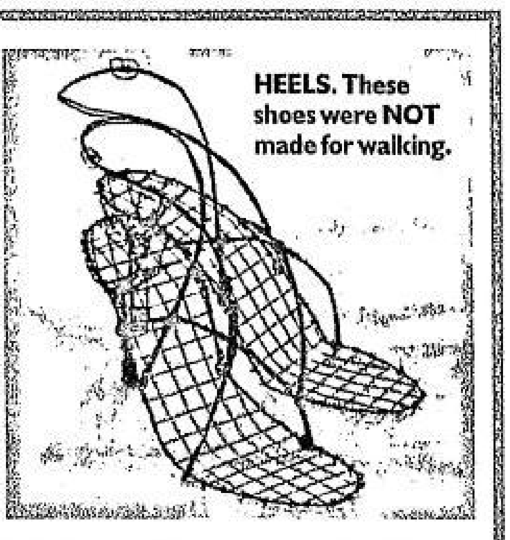


ZEN GARDEN. Drowning or coming up?



NEW TRIP

BARBA GOWN. Tessa Valdes' next must-have gown



HEELS. These shoes were NOT made for walking.

SATURDAY SEVEN

Sculpting with spirit

For late-blooming artist Steph Palallos, the physicality of sculpture is pregnant with meaning

By Juana R. Manahan

MANY PEOPLE PERCEIVE THE art world to be full of passionate, angst-ridden discussions, deep paintings pregnant with meaning, and a lot of cigarette smoke. But, truth be told, all artists simply want to make a successful living out of their craft. It's a scary place, the art world. One feels compelled to attend the right school, find the right connections, and exude enough attitude to shroud themselves in a cloak of mystery. Most artists are lucky enough to know exactly what they want to do early on, while others keep their talents hidden for a long time.

Steph Palallos is one of the most brilliant, late-blooming artists I have ever met. While many artists dabble in painting, photography, and mixed media. Steph's medium of choice is sculpture. And not just any "found object" sculpture, mind you, many of her works consist of the classical technique of casting. The result of her work would make CeninoCeninni proud.

When Steph decided to drop her career as a successful graphic designer to pursue art studies in Metafra in Barcelona, Spain, she thought she was ready to be a painter. She did what any economic-minded, overseas-bound Pinay would do: Buy the supplies in Manila and ship it abroad. Steph sent two *balikbayan* boxes of paint supplies over to Spain.

During her first week in art school (before the boxes had arrived), a classmate who turned out to have a prophetic gift told Steph, "I dreamt of you last night, you were a sculptor." She laughed it off, as she was still expecting her caboodle of Pinoy paints to arrive. However, as soon as the first assignment to create a sculpture was set, Steph fell in love with the medium and never looked back.

The reluctant sculptor has produced some of the best—and most detailed—sculptural works I have ever seen coming from a Filipina artist. For her serious pieces, Steph has perfected the art of casting. She says, "When I was away and alone in school, I cast myself and used it in my art."

After feeling lost in her career, the very tangible art of sculpture was a way to literally put herself together. She came to be known as the Frankenstein of her class, often casting several parts of her body. Arms, legs, faces, and hands were always found in her work area—and, much to the dismay of her roommates, in the refrigerator.

Unlike some sculptors, Steph always completes her figures in her works, even certain portions will eventually be covered and hidden. In "Want," for example, the woman's body has an actual armature underneath the plaster, and body's figure is complete with a spine. The many hands that are pulling at the drapery of the figure are those of her classmates at school. In her first piece, "Zen Garden," the sand goes all the way to the bottom of the box. While the draping of European sculptures heavily influences most of her life-size sculptures, they have the fresh point of view of a lady who was brave enough to put her vision as an artist together.

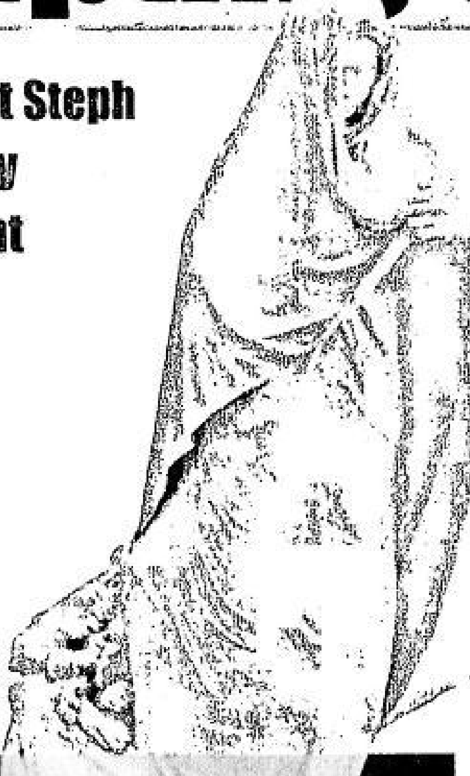
Steph was drawn to the physicality of creating sculptures. One of her favorite mediums is wire. Thanks to the malleability of the material, she has added the fashion factor to her sculptures—creating a gown, trousers, and shoes out of metal wire. She also makes wearable art in the form of jewelry. The same amount of time and planning goes into making what are, essentially, mini sculptures.

Steph's vision of what art should be is classical and uncomplicated. "I want my art to have a visceral effect on the viewers," she says. "They can like it or hate it, as long as I can draw a reaction from them."

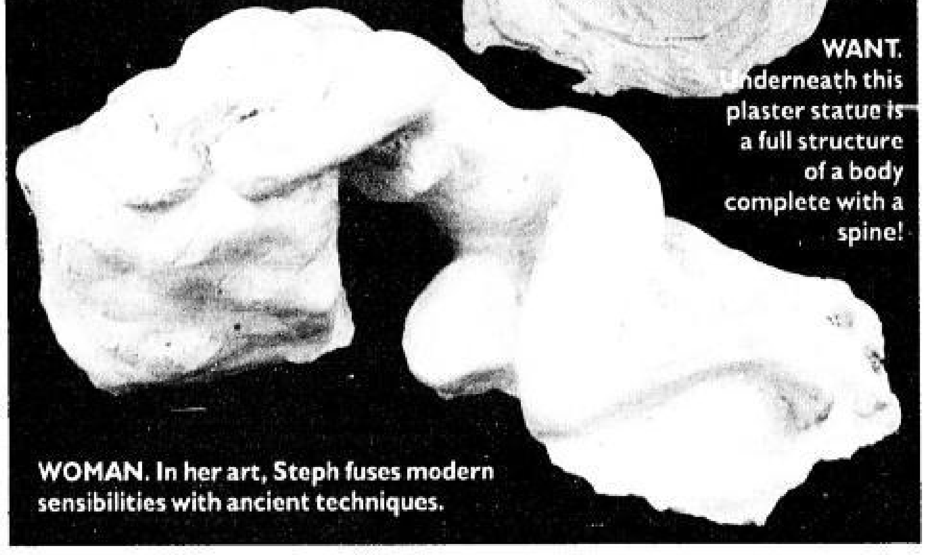
Her hardcore sculptures are still in Spain, although she has been extremely successful with her wire art and jewelry in Manila. The next step in her unfolding career as an artist will be to produce more of her hardcore works of art. It's a brave step for someone who has endured a kind of reverse snobbery in the local art world, as she did not attend school here, and majored in Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo.

Her multi-subject course did, however, give her a solid foundation of concepts and ideas to draw inspiration for her art. Her artworks are a new breed of a braver form of art. They are not meaningless bits and pieces randomly put together to create meaning. Rather, her art expresses real discovery of herself through the process. We could all learn a lesson from Steph: To step back and put the pieces of our lives together just the way we want it to be.

Steph Palallos can be contacted through magicpoppet@gmail.com and (0915) 979-2164.



WANT. Underneath this plaster statue is a full structure of a body complete with a spine!



WOMAN. In her art, Steph fuses modern sensibilities with ancient techniques.

'Heroes' Worship

From page D1

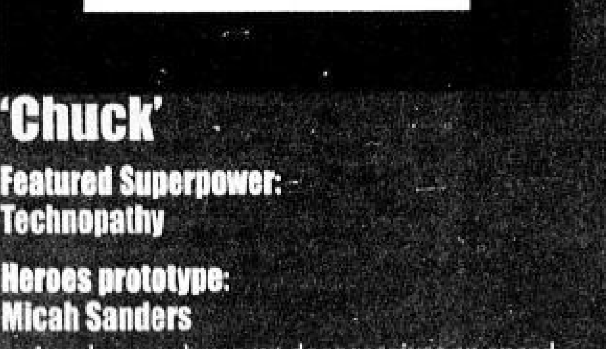
CHUCK

'Chuck'

Featured Superpower:
Technopathy

Heroes prototype:
Micah Sanders

A tech-savvy boy next door receives an encoded e-mail from an old friend, a rogue CIA agent, and thereafter downloads government secrets into his brain.



'Pushing Daisies'

Featured Superpower: Bringing the dead back to life

Heroes prototype: Mr. Linderman

Biblical prototype: Jesus

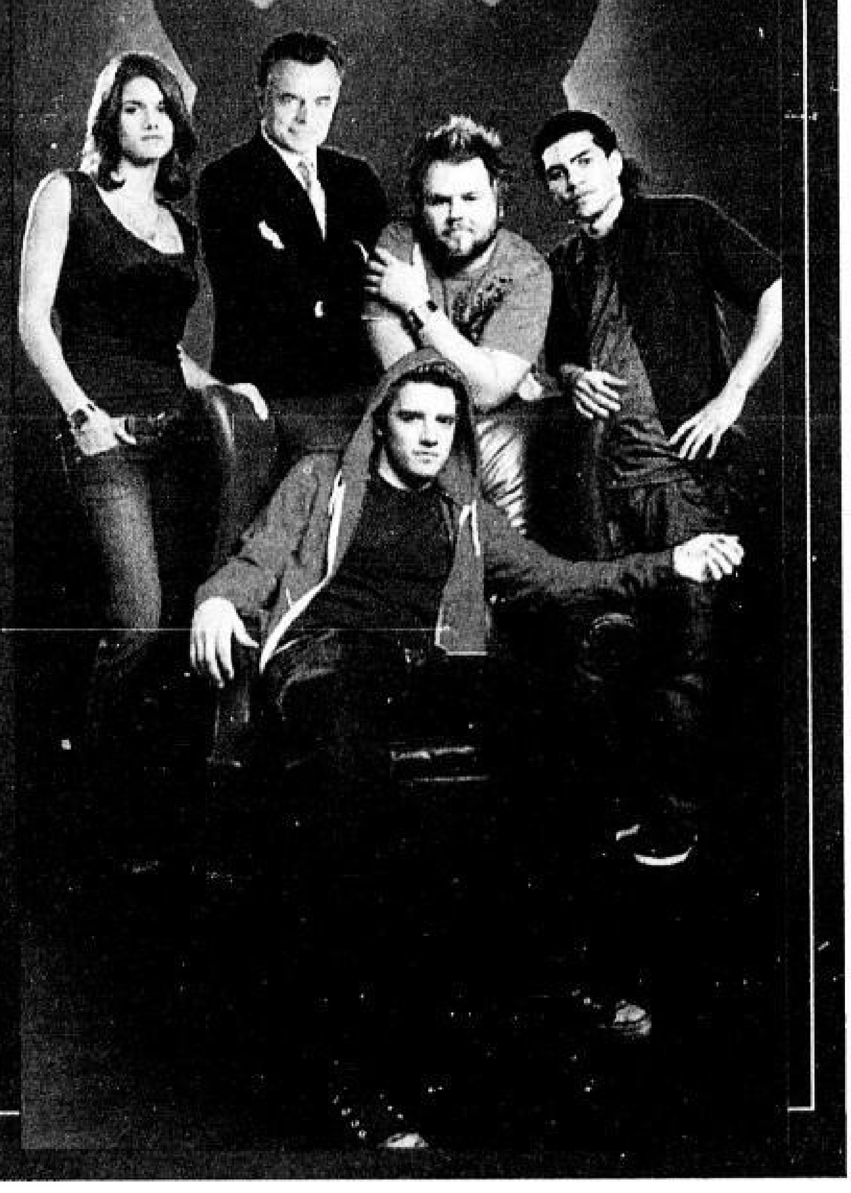
This forensic fairy tale is centered on Ned, a piemaker with a mysterious ability to make the dead alive again. If he touches the person for the second time, though, the being will be dead permanently. If they live for more than 60 seconds, somebody else nearby will die. (Wow, complicated.)

'Reaper'

Featured Superpower:
Soul collection, general demonic stuff

Literary prototype: Faust

Interesting to note that Kevin Smith ("Dogma," "Chasing Amy," "Clerks") directed the pilot episode of this supernatural comedy. It stars Sam as the Everyman until he turns 21, when he finds out that his parents sold his soul to the devil before he was born. Talk about getting ultimately punk'd! Thereafter, Satan (yes, that ol' devil), tells Sam that he must serve as his bounty hunter, tracking souls that have escaped from Hell. And you thought you hated your boss!



Boosting your child's immunity

If all the mothers in the world had their way, they would watch over their children 24-7. A mother's natural instinct to nurture and protect her child from harm makes it possible for kids to grow and lead happy and healthy lives. But many moms have busy schedules and other roles and responsibilities, that's why they provide all the necessary safeguards to defend their kids from diseases, accidents and other unfortunate circumstances that may happen in the child's environment.

For any mother who has a growing and active child one year or above, some of the most urgent matters of concern would be proper nutrition and how to equip their child's body against sicknesses. Moms want to be sure that their small children have the necessary defenses to fend off viruses and bacteria, especially during the toddler years when children learn to explore their surroundings and start to engage in more physical activities.

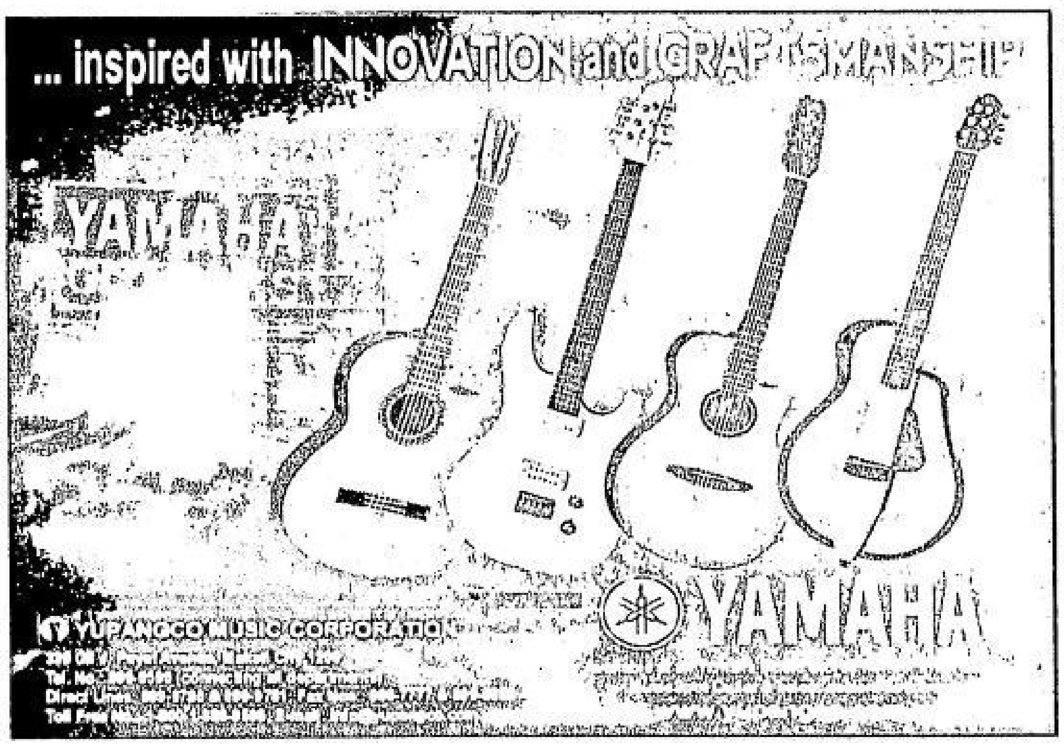
One such safeguard may now be found in Bonakid growing up milk, now enhanced with nucleotides. The building blocks of the body's DNA and RNA that function in all cellular processes, nucleotides plays an all-important role in children's growth and development. Nucleotides are needed by DNA and RNA molecules to repair or replace cells of all kinds and are involved in almost all activities of the cells and therefore, the body. Without nucleotides, the body's requirements to live, grow and develop cannot be met, making the body susceptible to infections and rendering it powerless from recovering from cell damage.

This is why nucleotides are very effective in helping boost the child's immune system. Researches have shown that nucleotides help in the proliferation of immune cells in the body, thus making the body free from sicknesses. It also encourages the proliferation of good bacteria called bifidobacteria, which helps prevent diarrhea, a common problem among children of this age group.

Nucleotides can also help boost the intestinal lining and increase enzymes for better nutrient absorption and utilization. This means that kids' bodies get to efficiently absorb all the nutrients they need to equip them for their highly active lives.

Bonakid, now enhanced with nucleotides---the building blocks of growth and development, also has energy giving nutrients that provide the much needed calories, vitamins, and minerals for their children's heightened active lives. With Bonakid, children get the energy, protection and freedom to journey into a happy and healthy childhood.

Source: The role of nucleotides in human nutrition by Jane D. Carver and W. Allan Walker.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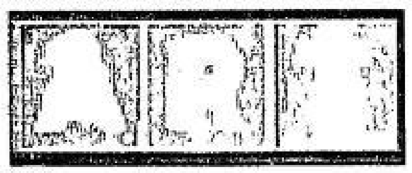
24/7
Super Radar

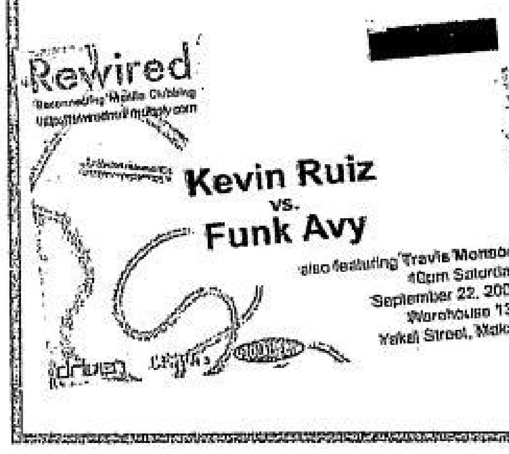
By Paolo R. Reyes
and Janine Cuenca-Dario

FEEL the "American Idol" spirit as talented finalist Elliot Yamin performs live at Glorietta tonight, followed by Market! Market! on Sept. 23, Ayala Center Cebu on Sept. 26, and Alabang Town Center on Sept. 28. All shows start at 6 p.m. Known for his raw voice, Simon Cowell described the Los Angeles-based singer as "potentially the best male vocalist in the history of American Idol."

ELLIOTT YAMIN



SEE the Tony Award-winning comedy, Art, at 8 p.m. this evening at the Music Museum, Greenhills. Directed by Bart Guingona, the Actor's Actors production is top billed by Jett Pangan, Michael de Mesa and Ricky Davao. For tickets, call (0917) 815-5794.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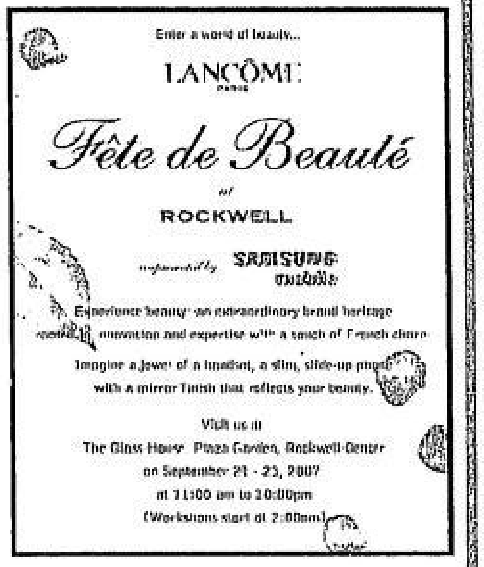
Rewired
Reconnecting Manila Clubbing
rewiredmnl.multiply.com

Kevin Ruiz
vs.
Funk Avy

also featuring Travis Monsod
10pm Saturday
September 22, 2007
Warehouse 135
Yakal Street, Makati

HEAR the friendly sonic duel between DJs Kevin Ruiz and Funk Avy during the Rewired Experiment at Warehouse 135. Tonight at 10 p.m., the country's progressive turntablists go head-to-head in what seems to be the DJ equivalent of a Manny Pacquiao fight. Opening the set is another veteran, Travis Monsod. Visit rewiredmnl.multiply.com.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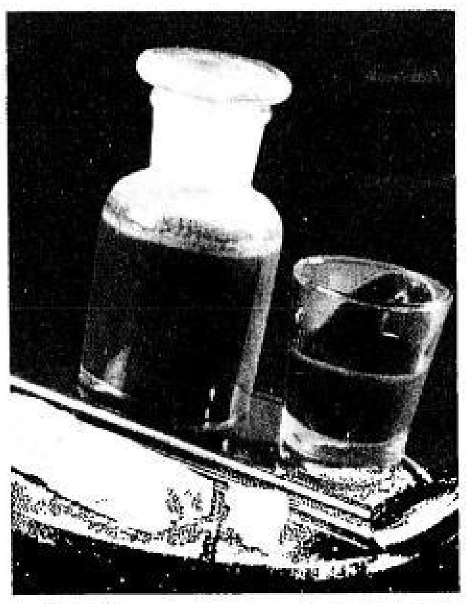
Imagine a jewel of a handset, a slim, slide-up phone with a mirror finish that reflects your beauty.

Visit us at
The Glass House, Plaza Garden, Rockwell Center
on September 21 - 23, 2007
at 11:00 am to 10:00pm
(Workshops start at 2:00pm)

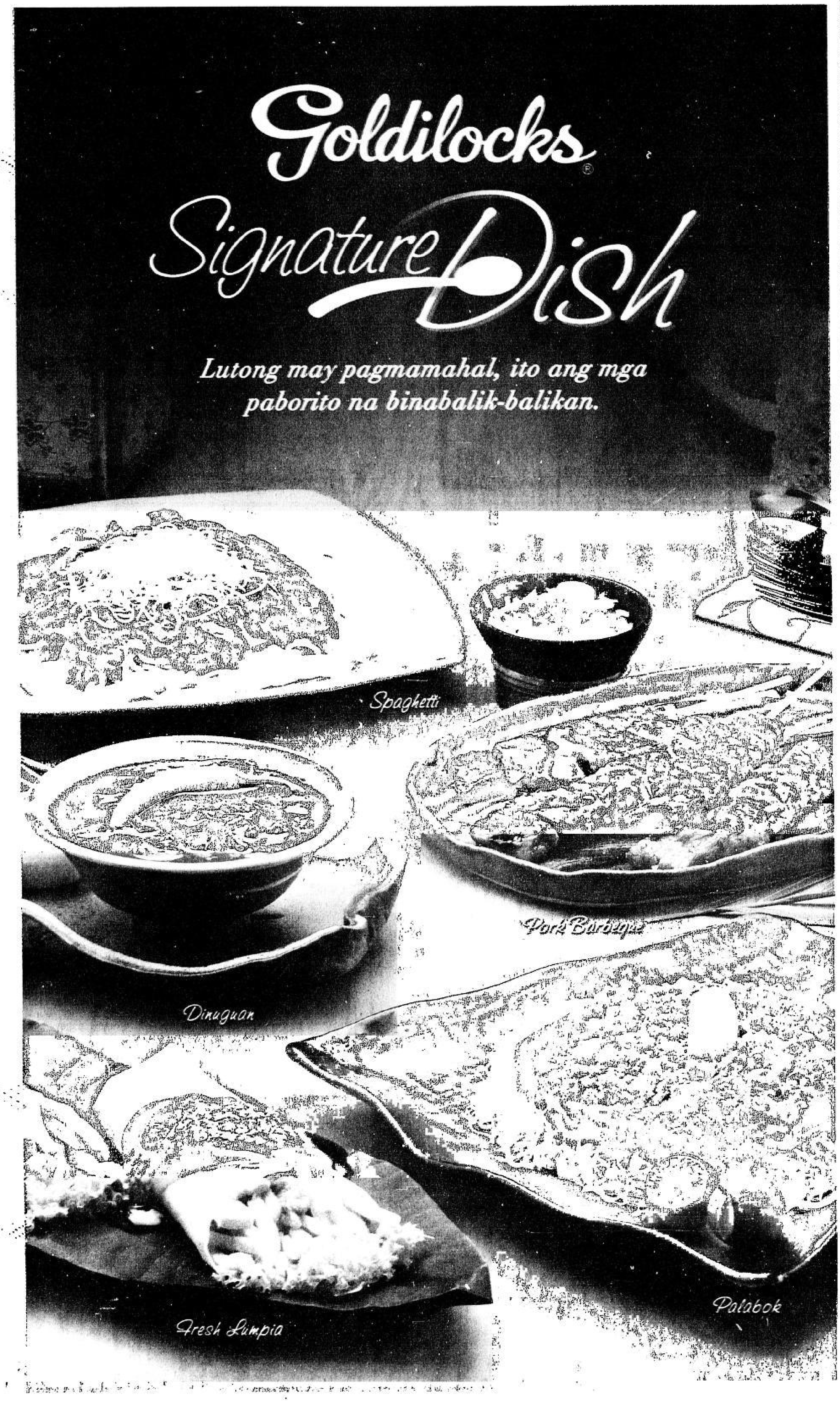
EXPERIENCE the best of beauty this weekend at Lancôme's two-day affair, Fete de Beaute, at The Glass House (Plaza Garden, Rockwell Center, Makati). From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., there will be workshop classes, make-overs, skin consultations, facials, and a fragrance bar. For inquires, call 632-0280 loc. 610 or (0917) 574-8442.



TASTE the delectible dark chocolate fondue of Max Brenner (Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati, tel: 728-8801) which comes with seasonal fruits, lady fingers, cheddar cheese, marshmallows, fudge brownie cubes, and a selection of ground peanuts, *pinipig*, and coconut dip. For the total chocolate indulgence package, order the Maragnan—hot milk chocolate with Irish cream, a shot of espresso, and sweet spice.

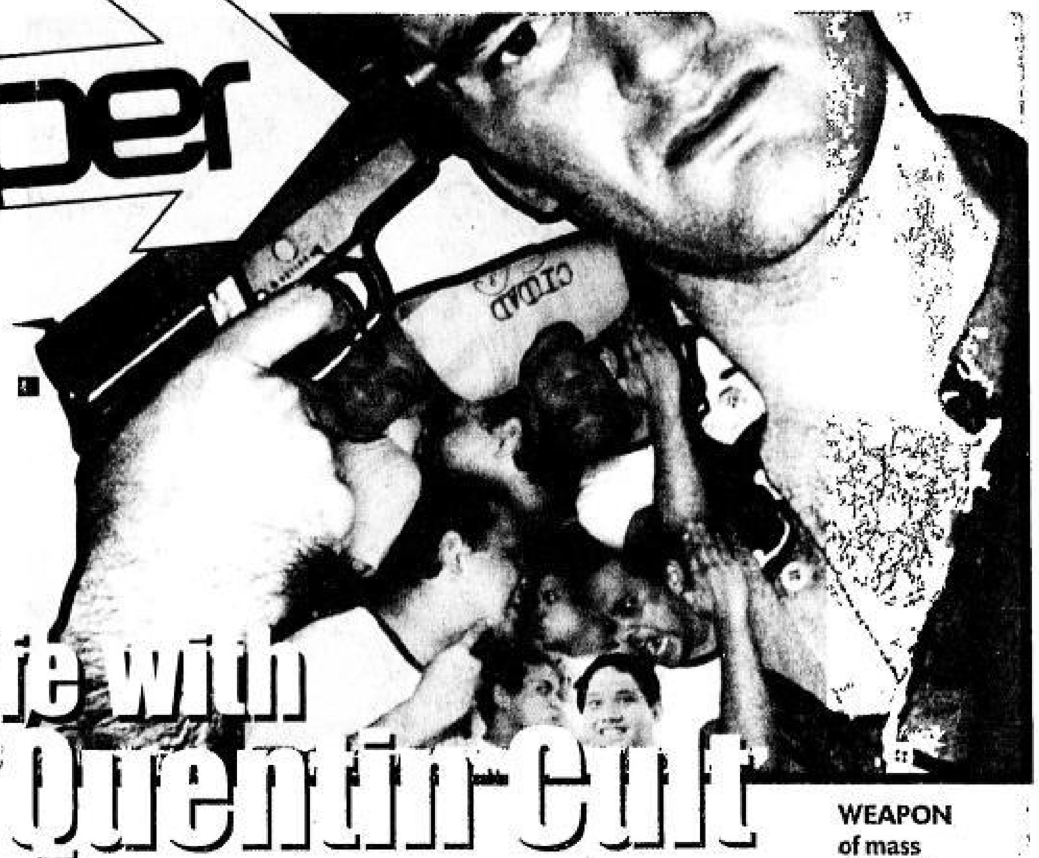
DREDD
09.26.07
top junk
birthday no. 2

Top Junk [illegible]


Goldilocks®
Signature Dish

Lutong may pagmamahal, ito ang mga paborito na binabalik-balikan.

super



My life with The Quentin Cult
Vol. II

WEAPON of mass distraction

ARTWORKS BY DAE LEE

By Quark Henares

IT'S 3 A.M. AND I'M GOING HOME from a Mag:Net High Street's "God Knows Hudas Not Pay" gig. I'm inside my village already when I get a text from Ryan Eigenmann: "Jaipur. Now."

"Oh f***," I say.

"Holy sh*t," Essa says, "I thought he was in Boracay?"

"I guess he's not," I say.

"Would this be pathetic? To turn around and head back to the Fort to hang out with Quentin Tarantino?"

"Maybe."

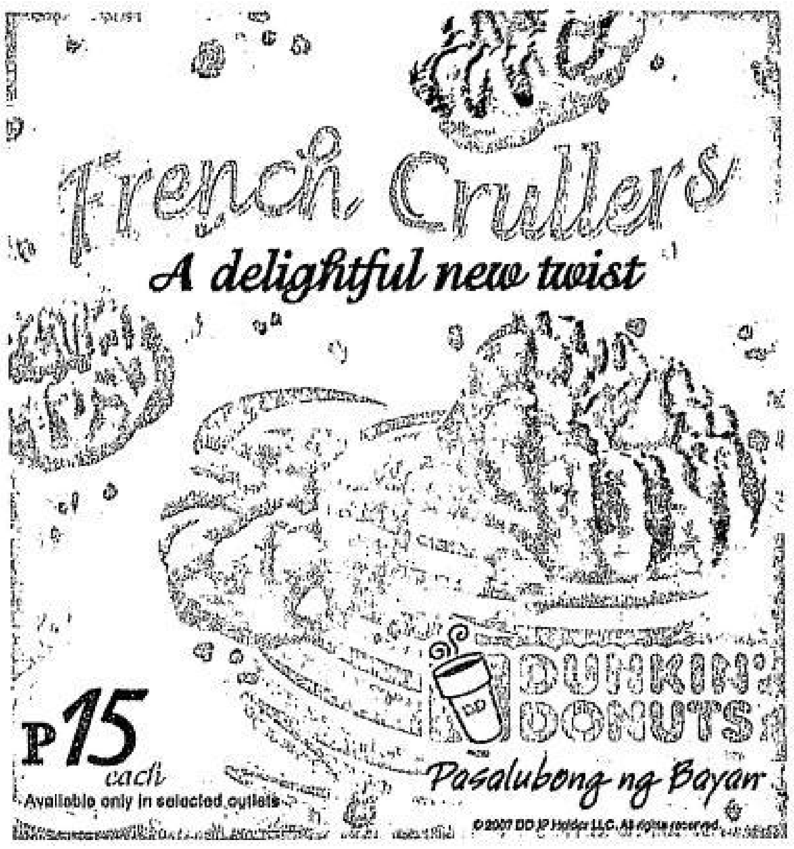
"But it's not stalking."

"Yeah. You see. That's a good point. It's not as if we're stalking the guy. We got invited to go to Jaipur. Why not?"

"That's a good rebuttal. *Ikaw.* It's up to you."

I then arrive at the ultimate criteria I always have for decision making: "This may seem foolhardy, yes, but would it be something I'd blog about?" In the blink of an eye I make that 180 degree turn. When we get there Tarantino is sprawled out on the couch, grooving to the hip hop music and talking with Ryan and his lovely girlfriend Cathy. He sees me and says the most surreal thing—

MY LIFE/ E4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Pasalubong ng Bayan
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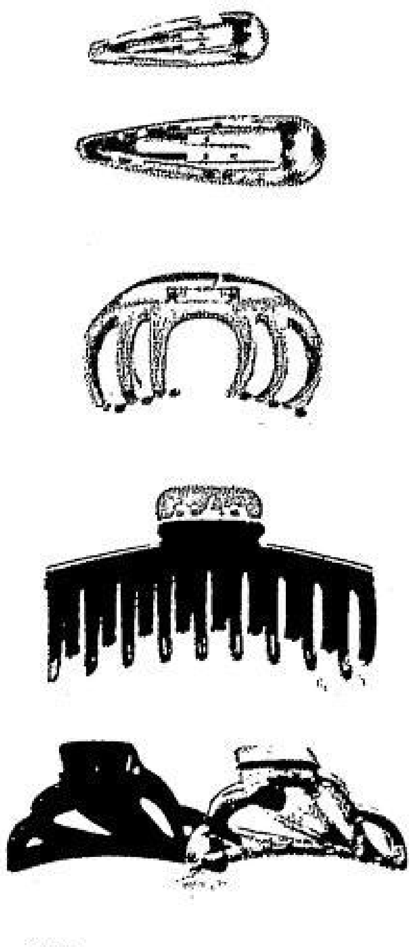
SNACK EXCHANGE
Mooncake Festival
Enjoy the yummy goodness of mooncakes in your choice of fillings
Free White Board for every P500 single or accumulated purchase
September 1-30
SM
We've got it all for you! DEPARTMENT STORE

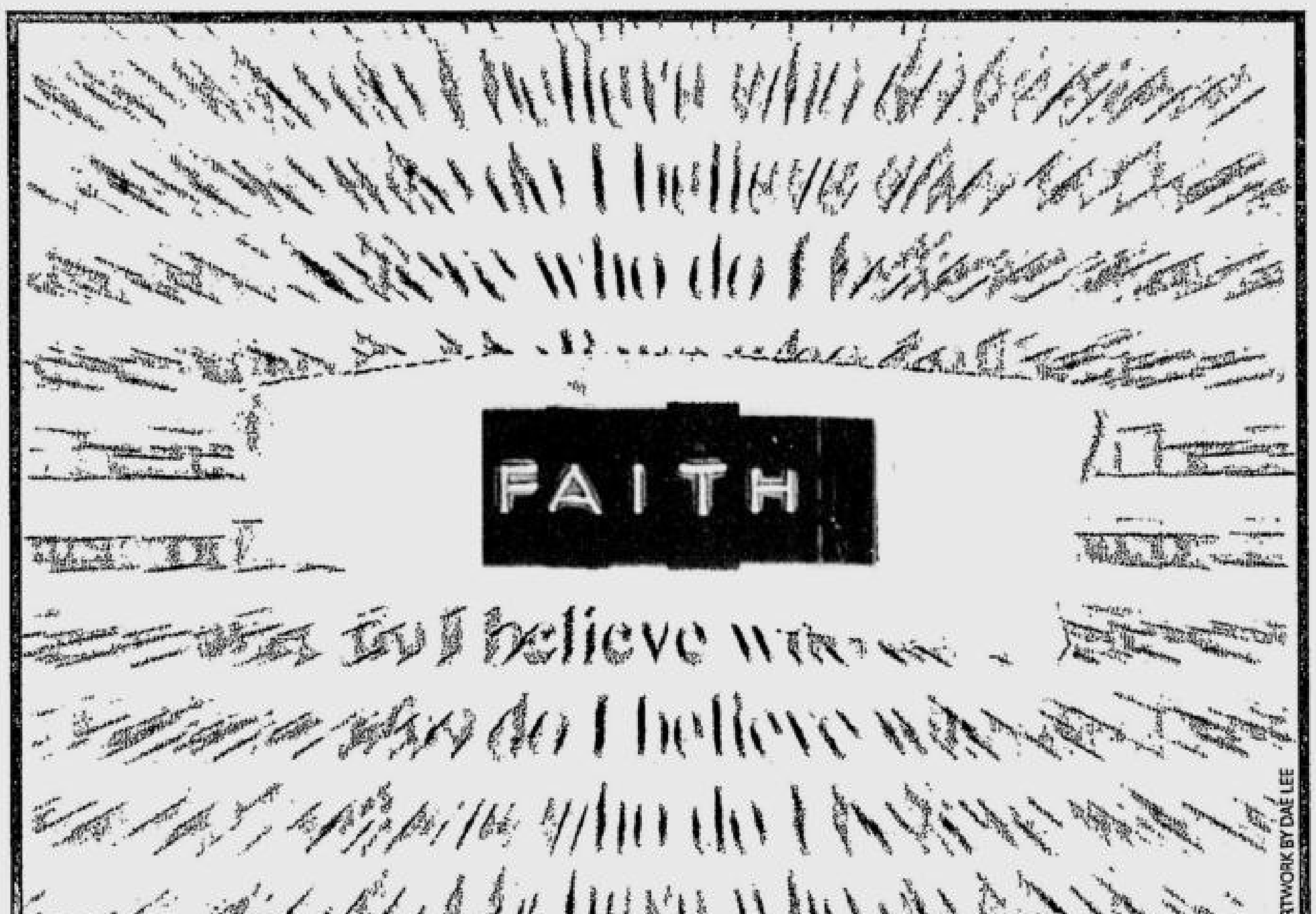
Moving up the corporate ladder? Then move up to the newest power accessory: Introducing Nouveau hair accessories and grooming products.

Fashionable and stylish, Nouveau offers the latest designs from Paris. Possessing a new curvy feminine design, it's a simple yet elegant hair accessory that's also affordable. Perfect for the modern working woman.

Nouveau is available at selected SM Department Stores, Watsons, SM hypermarkets, and SM Supermarkets.



Nouveau
New York • London • Paris
hair accessories



ARTWORK BY DAE LEE

A tale of two religions

By Pam Pastor

I WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN R.E.M. released the song "Losing My Religion."

And because this was before I discovered the magic of reading between the lines and the horrors of people not saying what they actually mean, I found the song amusing. Here was this guy whining about losing his religion while I had one too many. I remember thinking about giving him one of mine to make both our lives easier.

Yes, I grew up with two religions. My dad's side of the family is Catholic while my maternal grandparents head a Born Again Christian church.

Confusing religious path

Here is the very brief summary of my confusing religious path—Catholic baptism as a baby, Born Again baptism officiated by my grandfather when I was around 8 years old, then my Catholic confirmation in sixth grade.

Growing up, some Sundays meant going to Mass, lining up for communion and then visiting the toy store across the church after. Some Sundays meant singing in the church band and listening to my own grandfather talk about God and the wondrous things He's done.

On Sundays, my Religion class required me to reflect on the priest's homily but there were times when I had to rely on the newspaper to tell me what the Gospel was—during those weeks I went to the other church.

I went to an all-girls Catholic school for eleven years—from prep to high school—and when that was over, I attended a Catholic university.

> **R.E.M.'s 'Losing My Religion' made me laugh as a child. Here was this guy whining about losing his religion while I had one too many**

The Bible I used in school was different from the post-it covered pink Bible I used at home and in my grandparents' church. The things I was taught in school religion-wise were different from what I would hear from my grandparents. These became the things I had to learn and unlearn at the snap of a finger.

In many ways, it was a double life.

A double life

The elements of my Catholic life included the sign of the cross, the rosary, the stations of the cross, the saints, praying to Mother Mary.

My Born Again life involved speaking in tongues, getting slain, attending Bible study nights and praise and worship sessions that last a long time.

One set of cousins had to recite memorized passages from the Bible while the other set had to stop playing at around 8 in the evening every night to pray the rosary with their mom. Some days, I was one of the kids quoting the Bible, other days I would sit on my aunt's bed, my thumb and forefinger moving from one rosary bead to another.

When I was in high school, I missed World Youth Day and the Pope's visit because I was attending a faith convention in Singapore with my grandparents, my mom and my brother. When I went back to class, my classmates had a lot of stories to tell about the Pope mobile, about the people they met, about how they stood in the heat for hours. But I had a story of my own. At the faith convention, a speaker from the US asked me to stand up in front of the packed auditorium because he had a prophecy about me. I stood there, merely a girl in my pink suit, and watched as he declared my future as a woman of God.

Fervent beliefs

In reality, I should have grown up really confused. But my family's two different sets of beliefs only helped strengthen my faith in the existence and power of God. My family taught me to believe. And not just that, their fervent beliefs in their own religions taught me the importance of being open-minded and respecting the principles other people live by.

And while they might not realize it, their beliefs are alike. The truth is, Born Again or Catholic, the people I love believe in the same things. The ideas are the same—love and respect God, love and respect the people around you, live a good life, forgive, do not hurt the people around you.

And while it might have been simpler to grow up with just one religion, with just one kind of Sunday, without having to switch from mode A to B in a split second, my double life taught me a lot about faith—and respect.

Those lessons are lessons I wouldn't trade for anything in the world.

THEORIES OF EVERYTHING
The Quest for Ultimate Explanation
JOHN D. BARROW
'Its scope is, appropriately, vast' Nature
SUP
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truly magister

INTERIORITY COMPLEX

Call of the

By Troy Bernardo
Photos by Justin Hakuta
PAINTING BY BONG DE LA TORRE

IT'S A CALL THAT TRANSCENDS ALL barriers, breaking through race, class and creed; seeking people out, bringing them together, and sending them off in their own glorious trajectories. And though it comes as a whisper that's heard with the heart, reaching out to all ages, its pull is overwhelming.

It took a young man named Pompet Villaraza away from the advertising industry and brought him to an uninhabited island in Palawan, where he spent two years going through his own personal catharsis. Living on bananas and coconuts, Villaraza flushed out both the toxins and emotional baggage off his body, until he heard the words: The Mother and I are one. It was then that he began to be moved by the Spirit, the Divine Energy, like electricity running through his system. He, then, realized that he had the power to heal.

The Spirit's energy, and that ability to heal, has since spread through a disparate group of people, most of who never believed it was possible.

"It's an energy that connects us to our Higher Selves, to other people, to the land, to the Universe," said Betsy Gamela, who runs a compound in Makilala, North Cotabato that includes guesthouses, a healing center, and the only bio-dynamic, Anthroposophy-based farm in the country. Its produce: organic fruits and vegetables, herbal teas and medicines, yogurt and other items; carries the Bios Dynamis label. "We now have a healing center dedicated to spreading this energy. All the staff and workers at the farm, and their families, have regular sessions. It's open to all."

What connects people to the energy is Kalipimu, a ritual practiced by the indigenous tribal shamans, called the *baylan* (male) and the *babaylan* (female), who took care of our souls even before Ferdinand Magellan rediscovered the islands in March 1521.

"Before Christianity was brought to us, we, as a people, already had the Christ consciousness, elevated awareness, and a deep sense of spirituality," said Edwin de la Torre, clairvoyant artist. He is right. As the keepers of ancient secrets and wisdom, the babaylans brought us to higher states of consciousness by awakening the spirit within, encouraging the Divine Energy (Kalimata) to move through the body, consequently inducing spiritual ecstasy, healing, and the removal of mental, physical, and emotional blockages.

This is what draws many to Kalipimu.

The practice

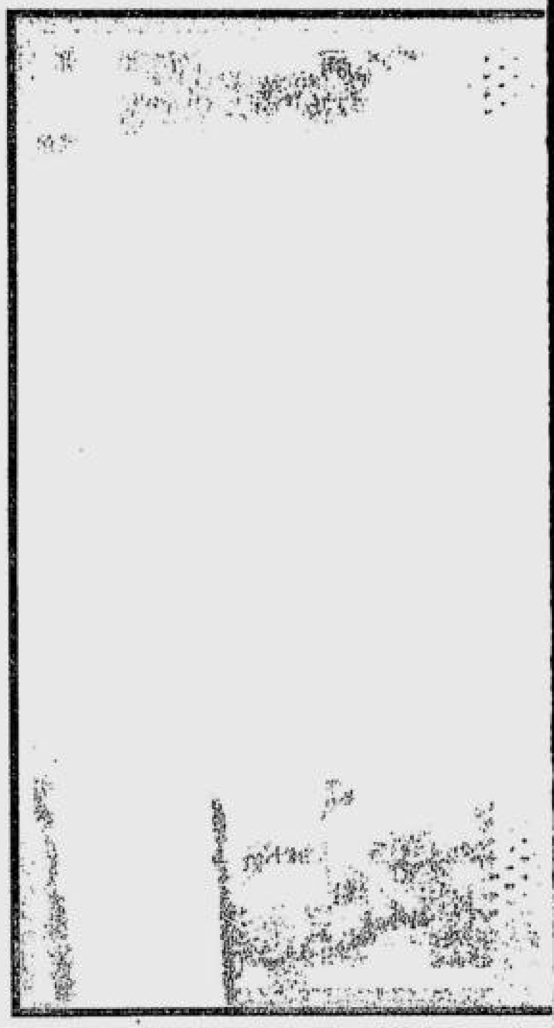
The term, Kalipimu (which can also be spelled: Kali-Pi-Mu, using the mathematical symbol approximately equal to 3.14159), has many meanings and going through each one simply intellectualizes what cannot be fully understood.

Kalipay Mu is Visayan for "Your Happiness," while Kalipi Mu means "Our tribe." Kalipay is the name of the island where Villaraza, who has since changed his name to Pi, rediscovered the practice. P.I. represents the Philippine Islands, the divine number, and other sacred symbols. In science, Mu waves are electromagnetic oscillations associated mostly with the motor cortex (central scalp). The highest level, the Gamma frequencies, is where Kalipimu takes people. This is also part of how the healing takes place.

"We're still beginning to discover the healing that occurs with Kalipimu," said Lisette Salazar, entrepreneur and mother of two. "When one moves, energy flows through every part of the body, every cell. All sorts of healing happen. Some people laugh, some cry. Most people sweat. We can all heal ourselves. That's what Kalipimu is all about. It helps us heal."

Usually, groups of eight people gather together at a designated space, preferably one where people can move freely, and about two-three healers do their work for about an hour. The process begins when the healer, guided by the Spirit, taps into the Kalimata of the initiate—the Divine Energy that exists within each of us—and allows this energy to express itself through visions, energy shifts or movement. The movement can be either simple or elaborate, depending on a person's spiritual openness. This is where the healing starts. After this, pressure points are pressed and parts that need healing are massaged. Not all sicknesses are instantly healed, though. Healing, as Villaraza explained, depends on the mindset, spiritual advancement, and the personal intentions of the initiate. But the initial "awakening" is a spiritual jolt that is often enough to make someone alive, aware and awake—qualities needed to live life to the fullest.

People, who have undergone Kali-Pi-Mu gatherings, report an immediate sensation of bliss, intense happiness and spiritual ecstasy, and later on, rapid acceleration of spiritual evolution. Some go through an involuntary dance, mostly with heightened abandon in such ele-



PLAYING WITH FIRE (above) and Kalipimu pilgri

RNATIONAL BESTSELLER
CHARD
WKINS
THE
OD
USION
ok, especially in these
t book, lucid and wise,
l' Ian McEwan

SUPERBOOKS

A Few Good Mindscrews

Win these books!

THE AGE OLD RIVALRY BETWEEN science and faith has come to a semi-truce with the possibility of a real connection. A look at some highly recommended reads that will satisfy the budding thinker/ atheist/ pain-in-the arse in you. (Warning, not for highly sensitive Cathoholics!)

WHAT WE BELIEVE BUT CANNOT PROVE by John Brockman

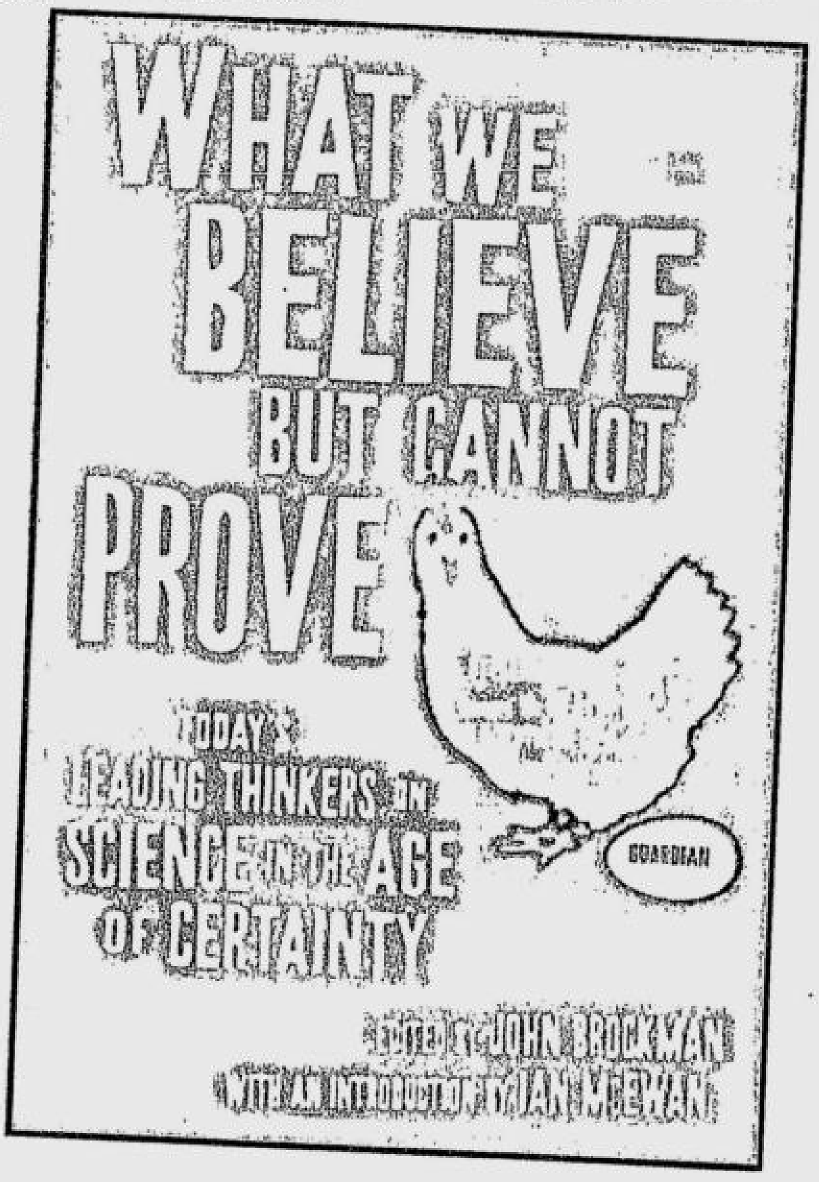
What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it? This presents several of the modern world's leading thinkers, including Ian McEwan and Richard Dawkins, delving into issues such as evolution, the afterlife, and intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. It's a highly engaging mindscrew, and fodder for your next coffee conference among your more intelligent life form friends, if they do exist.

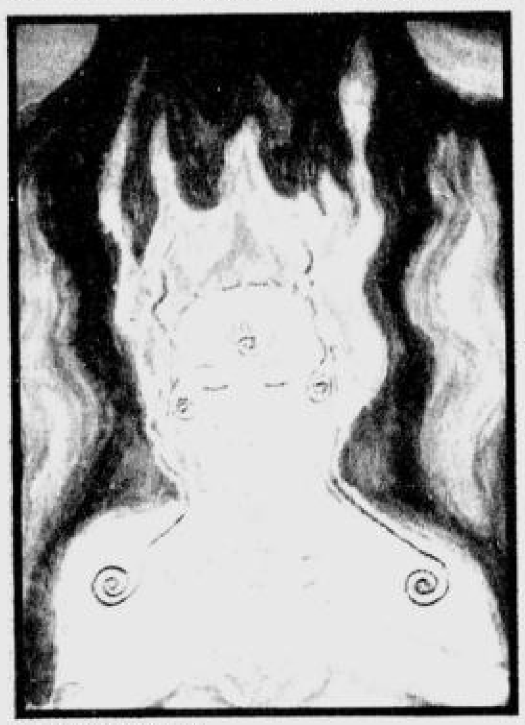
THE GOD DELUSION by Richard Dawkins

Is there really a God? Is our faith based on a fallacy? This international bestseller and uber-controversial book deals head-on with religious issues, tracing religion's historical roots and even presents arguments for God's very existence.

THEORIES OF EVERYTHING: The Quest for Ultimate Explanation

Not for your dime a dozen reader, this book is concerned with the modern scientific quest for The Theory of Everything, which contains all that can be known about the Universe. It is the magic formula that Einstein spent his life searching for and failed to find. Unless the very idea of a cosmic Rosetta Stone and "pi" in the sky gets you off, we're guessing you won't make it through page two.

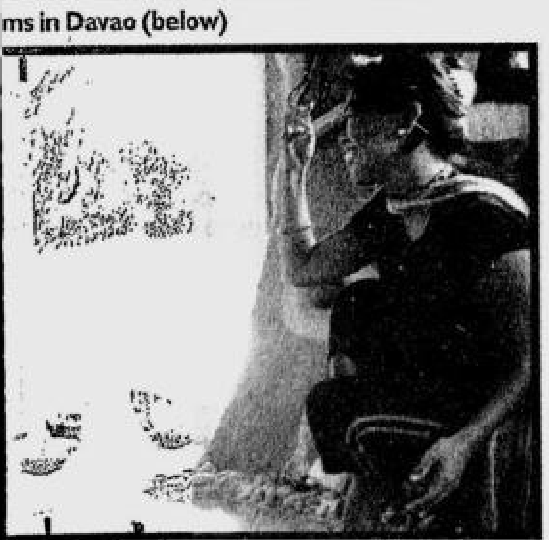

WHAT WE BELIEVE BUT CANNOT PROVE
TODAY'S LEADING THINKERS ON SCIENCE IN THE AGE OF CERTAINTY
GUARDIAN
EDITED BY JOHN BROCKMAN
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY IAN McEWAN



INTUITIVE ART

Kalipimu, a lost spiritual ritual practiced by indigenous 'babaylans,' breaks new ground in modern times

ms in Davao (below)



vated states. Frequent practice can trigger the awakening of the Kundalini, the energy curled up in the back part of the root chakra in three and one-half turns around the sacrum (i.e., from Sanskrit: coiled up or coiled up like a snake). In yoga, the awakening is associated with the appearance of bio-energetic phenomena, much like a "pranic awakening," prana being the vital, life-sustaining force in the body. Some people, even those who do not have yoga classes under their belts, break into difficult asanas, or postures, during Kalipimu. Some report significant improvements in diet and skin tone; relief from chronic back pains, allergies and other conditions; and seemingly effortless transitions from stress to a more positive life outlook.

Music also plays an important role in the practice, particularly rhythms that help carry people to heightened states. This combination is partly why Kalipimu is popular among artists, psychics and the young. It is a spiritual experience without religion, a profoundly sacred high without a crash, and a deeply personal happiness that connects one to the happiness of all. It promotes peace, love, unity and respect without the aid of external sources. People resonate with a sense of coming home, being home.

The real music, however, the sounds of drums and stomping feet, of tranquility and resonating silence, of insights and messages, is found within. The real call, in its very essence, is that of service.

The Maian essence

The Kali-Pi-Mu experience is sacred. It launches initiates into an acceleration of spiritual development, which includes processes of purification and profound transformation. It is much like the peeling of masks. Once Kalipimu is performed, the glue that fastens these masks together is released, and so like crumbling walls, layer and layer of these faces of ignorance, prejudices and biases fall away. We either hang on to them, a useless gesture, or simply let go, which sets us free.

Only then can we reach Kalipimu's destination: higher states of consciousness. It is a spiritual practice so pure that it transcends all form, prayer or structure, taking faith to levels far beyond formula, ritual and worship. This is the state when one is happily connected to the Infinite, the Sacred, and the Divine.

It is a state where all of us are moving to. We have, after all, made our journeys before. Back then, we knew the country by its ancient name, Ma-I. Had the islands not been named after King Philip II of Spain, we would have called ourselves Maians, studied the alibata (our alphabet), and continued practicing our own form of spirituality, Kalipimu. The symbolisms continue. Maya is the name of our former national bird. Maya reversed is Ayam, or I am, which is Ma-I reversed. In Exodus 3:14 (or Pi), God said to Moses, "I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, I-AM sent me to you."

Through practice, Kalipimu can take you to this point of integration: where all things are connected; where there is nowhere else to go but toward Nothingness, the Buddhist concept, or the point where one can simply enjoy—as Melissa Nepomuceno of Emotional Freedom Techniques said—"the purity of just being blissfully with God, with Energy."

For more information on Kalipimu, please log on to the Kali-Pi-Mu Forum at http://kalipimu.s4.bizhat.com/ or e-mail kalipay_mu@yahoo.com.

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My life with

From page E1

"HEY MAN! I saw your trailer!"

"Oh. You did?"

"Yup!"

"For which film?"

"For the movie with Wendell, man!"

"Cool! 'Keka'?"

"No, no, no. Not Katya (for some reason he kept calling 'Keka' Katya). The one with the girl with the glasses!"

"Oh. 'Gamitan.'"

"Now, you see, you've got me intrigued! I have a little crush on the girl with the glasses. I'm worried about her fate now. Because she's gonna get used, right? Does she get her revenge?"

"I can't tell you that."

He laughs. "That's the correct answer, Quark." (OHMIGODHEKNOWSMYF***INGNAME)

"Don't watch that man! " By this time I had given him the other films, you see. "Just watch Keka."

"I can't just watch Katya! I'm gonna watch this one first. I'm gonna have a f***ing QUARKFEST MARATHON, OK? You gotta guide me through this! I kind of have it planned out. I'll watch the girl with the glasses movie, starring Wendell. Now, Wendell will be my guide, and he will take me to Katya.

"But you gotta promise me that you'll watch Keka, OK? Even if you end up not liking Gamitan."

"No no no no no. I can't promise you I'll watch Katya. If you hate Reservoir Dogs you come into Pulp Fiction in a bad mood! But let's say I do watch Katya. Where do I go from there?"

"The horror film. But that's a co-direction."

"Ok. And then the superhero movie?"

"No. Don't watch that. Maybe you can use it as a coaster."

The whole fricking time I'm just sitting there trying to breathe in all the surrealism. The phrase "Quarkfest Marathon" just keeps playing over and over in my head.

Back to 1995. Diego and Myrene had both just seen a premiere of "Pulp Fiction," and they loved it. So, for the two weeks after that, this is what it was like in the NU Booth …

MARKSMAN Quark

DIEGO: YOU HEAR ME TALKIN HERE BILLY BOY?! I AIN'T THROUGH WITH YOU BY A DAMN SIGHT! I'M GONNA GET MEDIEVAL ON YOUR ASS!

EVERYONE: HAHAHHAHAHAHHAHAHA

MYRENE: Hey, did you see a sign saying "dead nigger storage" in my front yard?

EVERYONE: HAHAHHAHAHAHHAHAHA

ME: You know why you didn't see that sign?

EVERYONE: BECAUSE STORING DEAD NIGGERS AIN'T MY F***IN BUSINESS, THAT'S WHY! HAHAHHAHAHAHHAHAHAHHAHAHAA

We quote Quentin, and we quote Quentin, and we quote Quentin. Seven years down the line Diego and I are doing our radio show "Let's Fun," and what happens?

ME: AGHHHH! I'm dyin, man! I'm dyin!

DIEGO: Excuse me, are you a doctor? I didn't know you know medicine! You're gonna be ok! Say it! You're gonna be OK!

ME: I'm gonna—aggckkkkkkk—

We quote Quentin.

Two days after Jaipur madness (actually, the next day) Tiffany kindly invites me to have dinner with them at Cesar Montano's restaurant. Midway through her invitation she says, "Oh. Wait a second." Someone else then goes on the phone.

"Hey Quark. It's Quentin."

"Oh, hi Quentin!"

"Hey I just saw Keka."

"Really? Wow. Cool man."

"I loved it!"

"OH MY GOD! REALLY?"

"Yeah, I totally did! You had me around the palm of your hand, man! I didn't know what was going to happen next!"

"Oh. Wow. Thank you so much—"

"And I love your ending! You know—'it doesn't matter if I get caught, or if we escape. It's the end of the movie, OK?' I love that! And Ryan is SUCH A F***ING ASSHOLE in the film. I mean, the only complaint I have is that Bobby Domingo didn't get killed in that movie! He's such a jerk!"

"Haha. Yeah he—"

"'Oh excuuse me! I'm just your star! If your want your work to be sh*t, fine!' Hahaha, I love his lines! He's such a great character. You really wanna kill him!"

"I know, it's—"

"And my favorite scene is the one where she's describing what she does. 'Oh yes, we at Tech Support are assh*les. And that's because we ARE smarter than you.' Did you write the subtitles?"

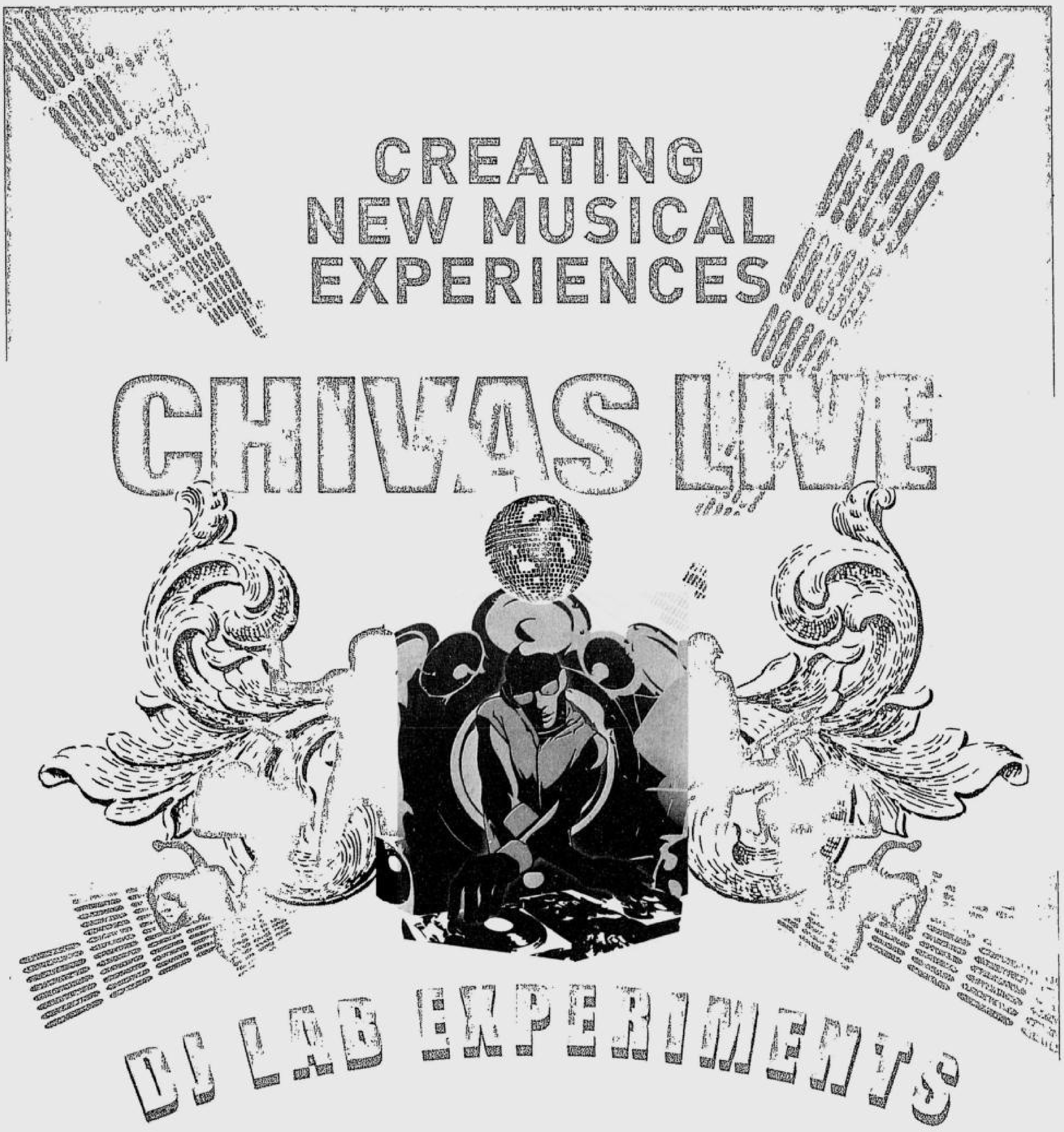
"Yes. Yes I di—"

"I knew it, man! You had to have written it. There was a sort of rhythm or meter to those subtitles. You did really good, Quark."

There are other aspects to this story; how he had me invite Katya to the dinner so he could meet her and talk about the film with her ("I'm a big fan, and you need that in Manila because it's so hot—a big fan! Pa-dum-tss!"), how he called Ryan and was repeating Ryan's lines to him over the phone, how TJ Trinidad silently made his way to meet Tarantino because he was blown off as a fan the first time ("Dude! He called me a great character actor!"), how at one point he was singing the Keka theme song (except in English).

However, all of that is a blur now. The only thing I couldn't stop thinking about was how lucky I was. I've always felt that "making art"—or whatever you might call it—was the result of being inspired by others' works so much that you feel almost compelled to throw something back at the world in gratitude. And for the first time I felt that I had actually come full circle, because I found myself literally giving something in gratitude to a person who pretty much changed my life with his art. In the midst of all the talking and laughing and socializing, I couldn't concentrate. I was still trying to get over the shock of this one simple realization—Holy mother of God.

Quentin just quoted me.



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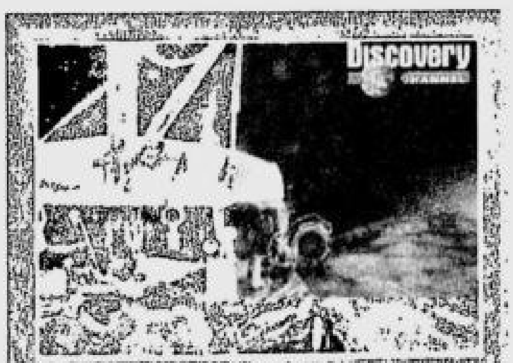

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IN THIS ISSUE

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Cate Blanchett's award-winning role as a man turns off her husband

"MY HUSBAND WAS DEEPLY TURNED OFF BY the whole thing!," a laughing Cate Blanchett confided about playing Bob Dylan in "I'm Not There," for which she won the Best Actress award at the recent Venice Film Festival. The actress, whom we interviewed in a press conference in Toronto, added: "He (Andrew Upton) found it so weird that he wouldn't kiss me that day!"

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

We've long been intrigued by "I'm Not There," Todd Haynes' bold experiment of a film in which Bob Dylan is imagined as a series of shifting personae. This was on our must-see list for a long time, so when the movie was screened in Venice, we made sure to watch it.

Imagine Cate, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Christian Bale (who's almost *un*recognizable) and Ben Wishaw—portraying the great Dylan as a poet, an outlaw and a born-again Christian, among others.

Most fascinating

Strangely enough, or perhaps not surprisingly, since Cate can't seem to do no wrong, she was the most fascinating Bob Dylan of them all (Heath comes second). The entire movie is a trip—and so is Cate, who's proving to be the most formidable actress of her generation.

Blanchett's best actress win at the Lido was well-deserved. A friend reportedly inserted a sock in her pants. "The trick kind of helped my walk," she was quoted as saying.

The versatile actress is also back as Queen Elizabeth I in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," which reunites her with Shekhar Kapur, who directed the first movie, "Elizabeth." Also in the cast are Geoffrey Rush, Clive Owen, Samantha Morton, Rhys Ifans and Abbie Cornish.

The Australian actress speaks in complete, coherent sentences—a skill that we see less and less of among celebrities. In addition, the tall, slim Cate is also one of Hollywood's best-dressed.

At the after-screening party for "The Golden Age" in Toronto, she looked stunning in a black and red gown. Any guest could approach her—there are no hulking bodyguards for this down-to-earth lady! For the "Elizabeth I" press con at the Four Seasons, she wore a sequined top and a black pantskirt.

Debut

After filming her part (reportedly as a villainess) in the new "Indiana Jones" movie, Cate plans to stay away from the movies for a year to work with Andrew, with whom she has two kids. As co-directors of the Sydney Theatre Company, they will debut in 2009.

But, the actress won't be absent from the screen. In addition to the latest "Indiana Jones," she has also completed work on "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," with Brad Pitt. Excerpts:

How did you find out about your win in Venice?

Lisa Kasteler, my publicist, called and said, "Did you hear?" I answered, "What?" They asked me to accept the award in Venice, but I couldn't leave my children in Los Angeles, where I was shooting "Indiana Jones." My life has changed in that regard. I can't do those things anymore.

Have you met Bob Dylan? How did you prepare to portray him?

I've only encountered Dylan through his music. I don't think Todd has met him, either. I'd be terrified to meet him—I'm too much in awe of him!

I was apprehensive about taking on the role. I was shooting "Elizabeth: The Golden Age." I literally walked off the set of "Elizabeth" and went straight into the Dylan film. I was worried about not having enough time to prepare. Jeff Rosen, who is Bob's manager, was very supportive and sent me copies of his long-form press conferences, which Scorsese used in his documentary ("No Direction Home").

Antidote

So, I would be watching hours and hours of footage of Bob interacting with the press while I was shooting "Elizabeth." Watching them was an antidote because shooting "Elizabeth" was very intense. Shekhar is a very intense director. For him, everything is life or death, and the stakes are very high. So it was great to have the relief of Bob Dylan's irony in between set-ups for "Elizabeth."

When was your first exposure to Dylan's music?

I have a friend named Sarah who was in a crisis when I was in the first year of drama school. We were in her car listening to Dylan when "Sara" came up. She burst into tears! I saw how she responded to the music. That was the first time I remember really connecting to a Dylan song.

The thing with Dylan is that he continually unfolds. Like, after doing the film, I listened to "The Basement Tapes"—it was as if another musical door had been opened!

"Modern Times" came out recently. He has reinvented himself again. He inspires me—he's very much on his own creative path!

Can you talk about women leaders? Queen Elizabeth I was well-respected. Hilary Clinton is running to become the first female president of the US.

You're talking about a handful of female leaders in a very entrenched patriarchal society, so imagine the impact that those women can have. We're not in a matriarchy—and can it even exist? How far down the road are we?

In films, I'm interested in balance. If you saw "To Each His Own Cinema" at Cannes, about great directors who have been at the Cannes festival, there was only one woman! There was no balance there.

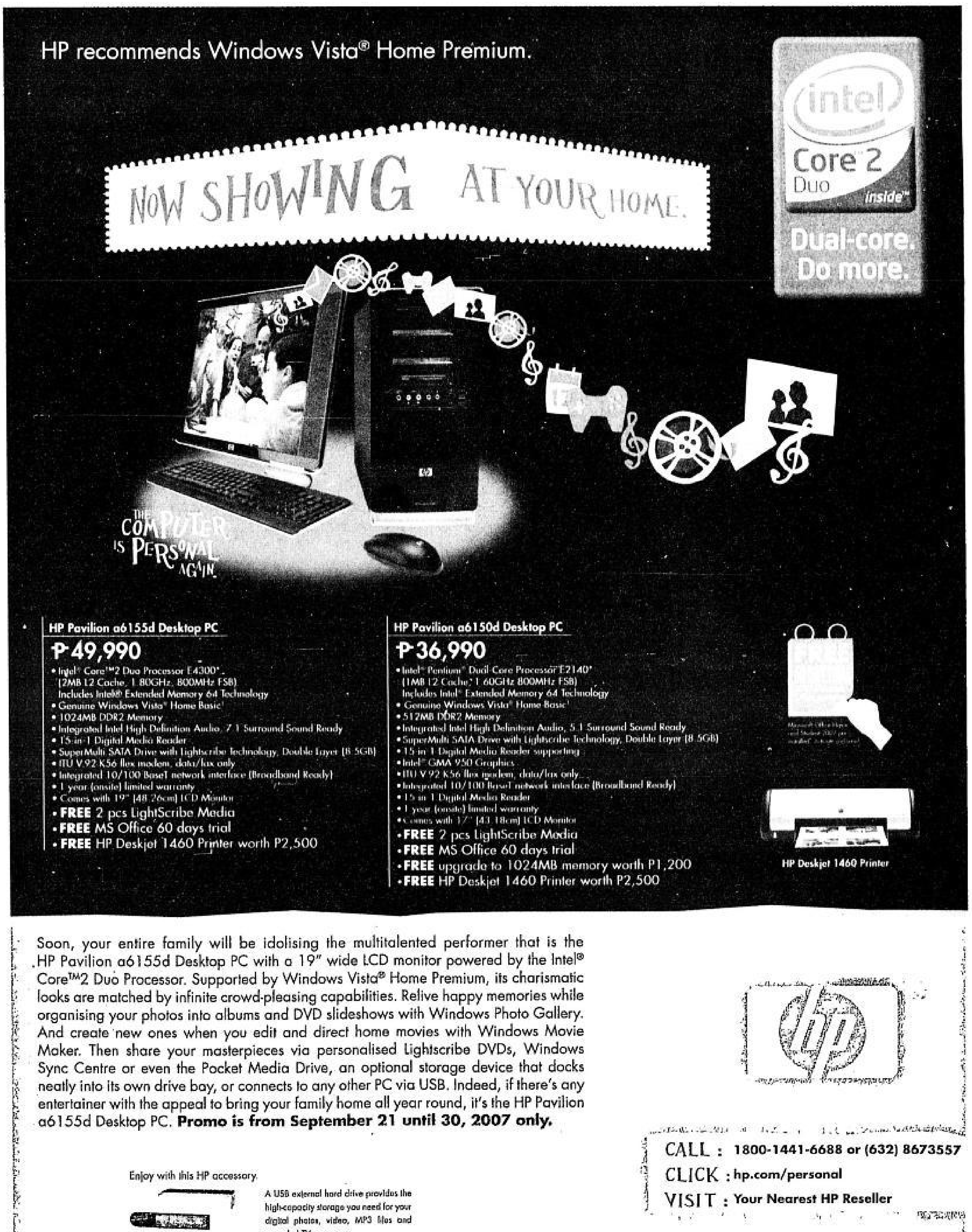
What can you tell us about Clive Owen, who plays Sir Walter Raleigh as a dashing seafarer in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"?

Clive is wonderful, free-spirited.

CATE/ F2

CATE as herself at the Toronto interview: Articulate, well-dressed and one of the most formidable actresses of her generation.
PHOTO BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

IT TAKES a woman to play a man—Cate Blanchett won the Best Actress award at the recent Venice Film Festival for playing Bob Dylan in "I'm Not There."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Cate Blanchett's Award-winning role as a man turns off her husband

From page F1

gorgeous, sexy and all those things. In the trailer, where he's standing at the helm of the ship, Shekhar has unashamedly made him into a complete Bollywood star. I'm sure if he went to Bombay, he could have a huge career!

You're in the new "Indiana Jones" movie. What did you think of the earlier films?

I reveled in the "Indiana Jones" films while I was growing up! I watched them again recently—I was completely transported! The first one, in particular, has not dated at all. It's still as witty and exciting as it was when it first came out. When Spielberg asked me to be in the new movie, there was no other answer but yes.

Dare we ask what role you are playing in it?

You could ask, but I'd be shot if I answered you *(laughter)*.

***

'Avenue Q' creator talks about his *Pinoy* heritage

ROBERT Lopez (right), who won a Tony Award with Jeff Marx for cowriting "Avenue Q," is part Filipino.

Los Angeles—Robert Lopez, who cowrote the music and lyrics of the 2004 Tony Award-winning musical, "Avenue Q," recently talked about his Filipino heritage in the Los Angeles Times.

The New York-based Lopez, whose Pinoy blood comes from his mother, discussed his dilemma, as to which opening night of the "Avenue Q" production would he attend—in LA or Manila?

Robert explained, "I'm part Filipino, and I had to choose between LA and Manila. I've never been there. And it's like, how Filipino am I? It's like three-eighths, so I guess in the end, Hollywood won out. But, I still may go. I'm this weird racial miasma of things."

Robert is busy. He's collaborating on a musical with the guys behind "South Park," Trey Parker and Matt Stone. With his wife, Kristin Anderson-Lopez, He recently finished the musical stage version of "Finding Nemo" for Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida.

We hope Robert gets to go to the Philippines and watches the production of Atlantis Productions' "Avenue Q," starring Rachel Alejandro.

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

No more text-voting, please

By Nestor U. Torre

THE RAGE ON TV THESE DAYS IS TEXT-voting. It's used a lot in determining the winners of a great variety of talent tilts, limiting those competitions' judges to merely commenting on the contestants and their performances.

The logic here is that talents must become popular to become entertainment stars. To become popular, you must appeal to the mass show biz audience. Text voters represent that mass audience—so, if they favor a certain contestant, that must mean that he's got what it takes to become a popular star.

Training

Traditionally, things worked pretty much in reverse. Producers "discovered" unknowns who they felt could become tomorrow's stars. They then built them up, gave them training and a make-over, tons of promotions, and put them in showy "introducing" roles in expensive productions.

—Only then did the viewing public get to react to the new talent and make him or her a star with its avid patronage—or, abort his or her bid for stardom with its collective disdain.

The new text-voting way of creating stars is deemed to be more efficient and populist, because it gives the public an earlier and bigger say in the success or failure of contestants' stellar bids.

By the time the TV talent tilts have run their course, contestants have acquired their own fan following, so their "graduation" to at least initial stardom is pretty much assured.

Text-voting is also favored by channels and sponsors because it makes money for them—a lot of money, in fact.

Alas, we don't share their enthusiasm—and more people appear to be coming around to sharing our view. Text-voting would be great if it indeed reflected the public's support for individual talents, but experience indicates that, sometimes, this isn't really the case.

Some contestants subvert the "people speak up and choose" principle of text-voting by spending a lot to buy votes, or by organizing big, vote-buying "machines" made up of relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues at the office, classmates, province-mates—etc.!

Finances

So, the final vote may not mean that the mass show biz audience likes this talent best, only that he or she has marshaled enough finances and "machinery" to pull in the most text-votes.

Indeed, what happens to some "winners" after their "triumph" is indicative of the spurious nature of the "public endorsement" they have ostensibly gotten during their televised tilts: Quite a number of them start their careers well but soon fizzle out, due to a lack of talent or actual public support.

For these and other reasons, we urge our TV channels to go back to an emphasis on *real* talent, not artificially achieved "popularity." Choose really perceptive judges and give them the power to select the best new talents. That way, local show biz can be infused with truly exciting talents, and we'll all be the better for it.

At present, many so-called "winners" of talent tilts aren't really all that gifted and charismatic, so we all end up holding a pretty empty bag.

Victims

The most pitiful victims of this subjective text-voting scheme are the great unknown talents who *deserve* to become stars, but don't have the ghost of a chance of succeeding, because they aren't rich or well-connected enough to "buy" their way to the top of the pops.

Do you feel the same way? Let our TV channels know what you think, and if enough people speak up, they might be convinced to do the right thing!

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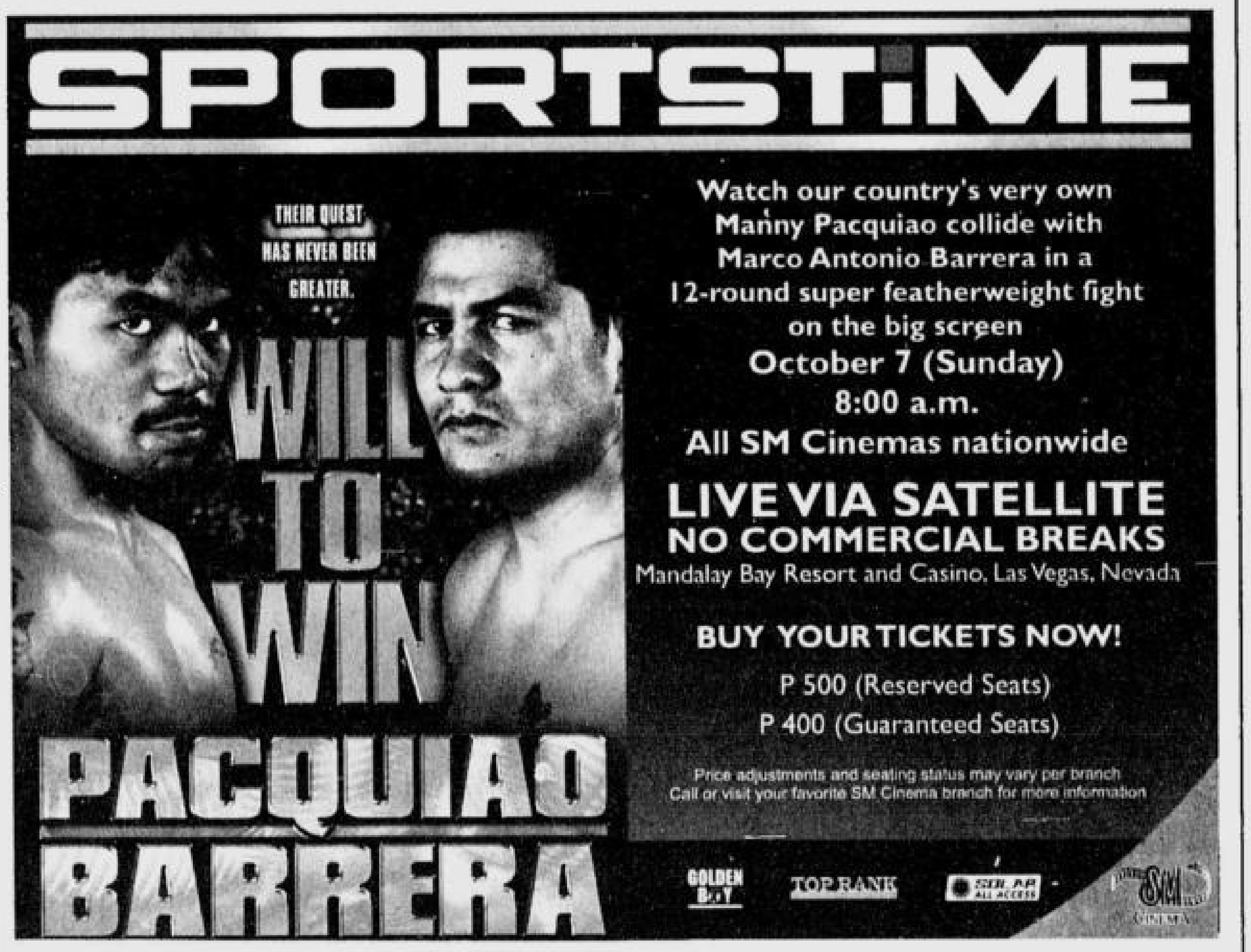

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7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 UNDERDOG
9 THE HOST
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 1408
12 RUSH HOUR 3

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3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 BRATZ
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4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
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8 A LOVE STORY
9 RESERVED
10 EVAN ALMIGHTY
11 1408
12 BRATZ

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5 SHOOT EM' UP
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7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
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3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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8 THE HOST
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10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 THE BRAVE ONE

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4 UNDERDOG

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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3 UNDERDOG
4 SHOOT EM' UP

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2 HAIRSPRAY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 BRATZ

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2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

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1 SKINWALKERS
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
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1 1408
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 BUG
4 UNDERDOG

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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 DAYWATCH
4 UNDERDOG
5 NANCY DREW
6 DISTURBIA

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1 A LOVE STORY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 1408

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1 1408
2 BLIND DATING
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DISTURBIA/DAYWATCH
2 UNDERDOG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

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2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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4 UNDERDOG

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2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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2 UNDERDOG
3 A LOVE STORY
4 NANCY DREW
5 LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NANCY DREW
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 INVASION
2 RESERVED
3 SKINWALKERS
4 UNDERDOG
5 DISTURBIA
6 1408
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 DISTURBIA
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 NANCY DREW
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 DON'T LOOK BACK
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 SKINWALKERS
4 INVASION/SINKING OF JAPAN

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK and LARRY MTRCB. R-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2 BRATZ MTRCB GP 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05
3 UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
THE BRAVE ONE MTCB R-13 6:30, 9:00
4 SHOOT 'EM UP MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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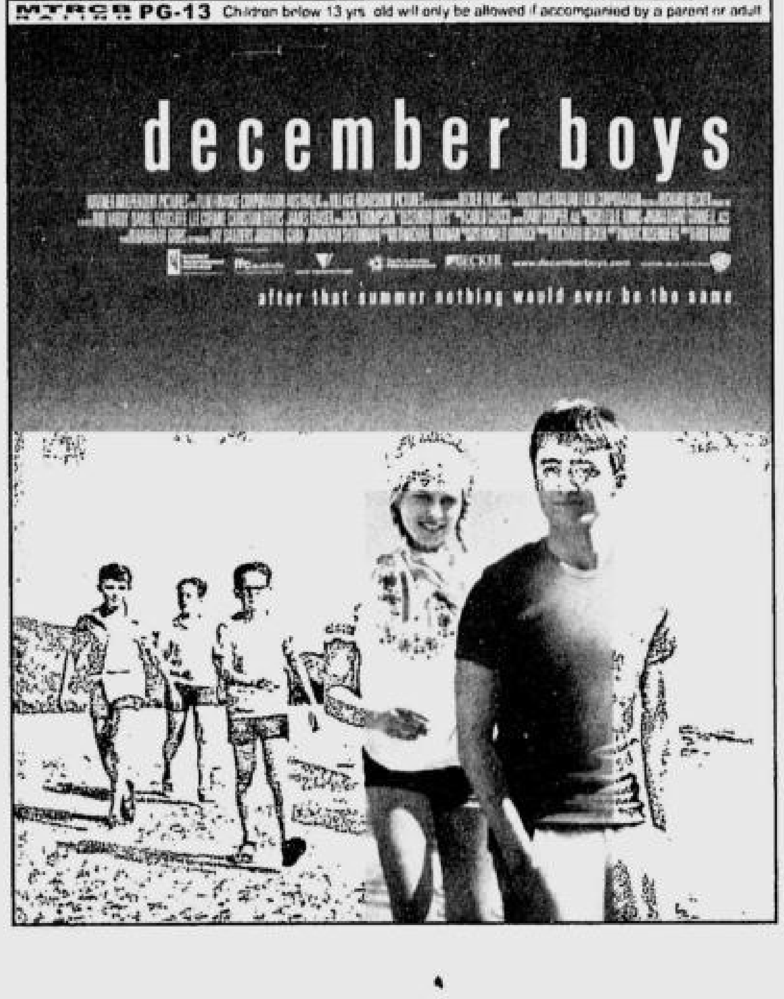

december boys
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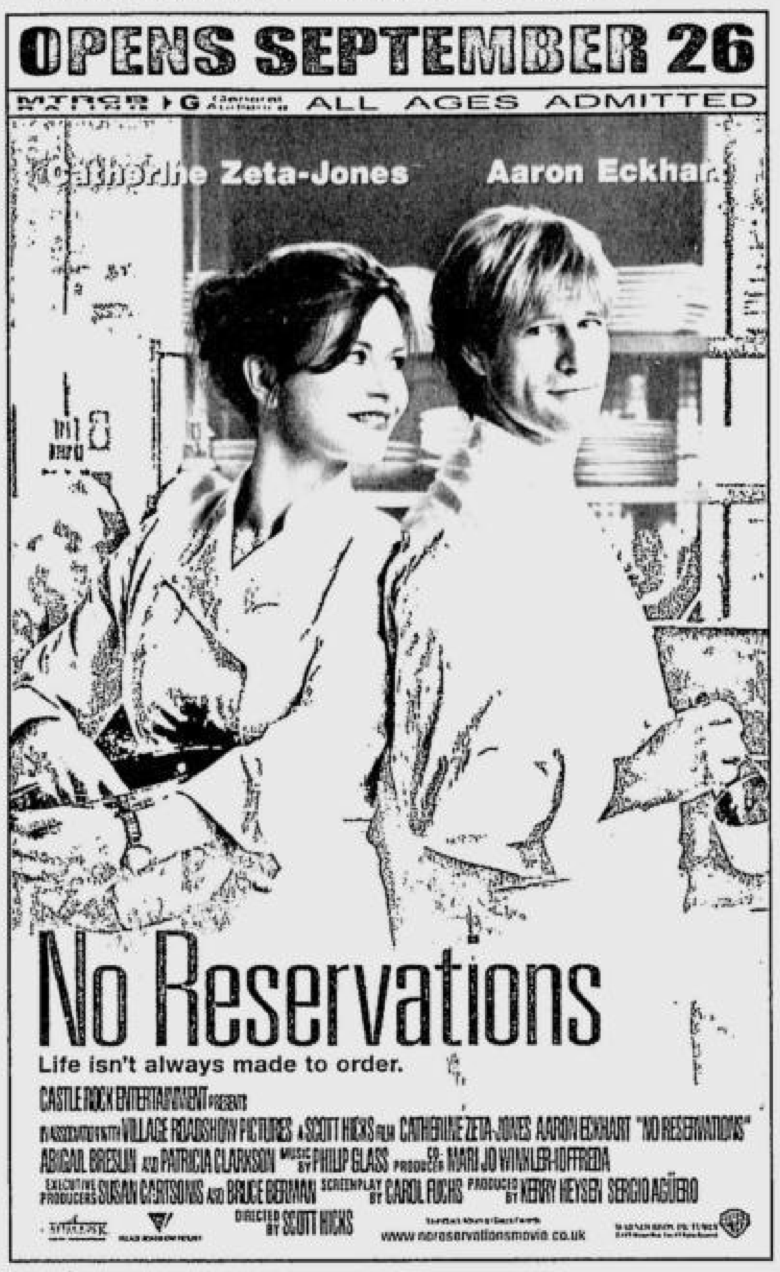
MY 84-YEAR-OLD FAther went to the AFP-SLAI Bank this week to get his monthly pension as a retired army officer. The teller demanded documents to prove that my dad was not one of the so-called "ghost" pensioners. She told him to go to other offices to get approval.

Procedure

The same thing happened a few months ago, so the rigorous procedure was raising my father's blood pressure. My stepmother intervened and told the teller: "Can't you see he's still alive?" Obviously, the ID cards weren't enough!

GOOD/ F4

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés? We can help you. JOB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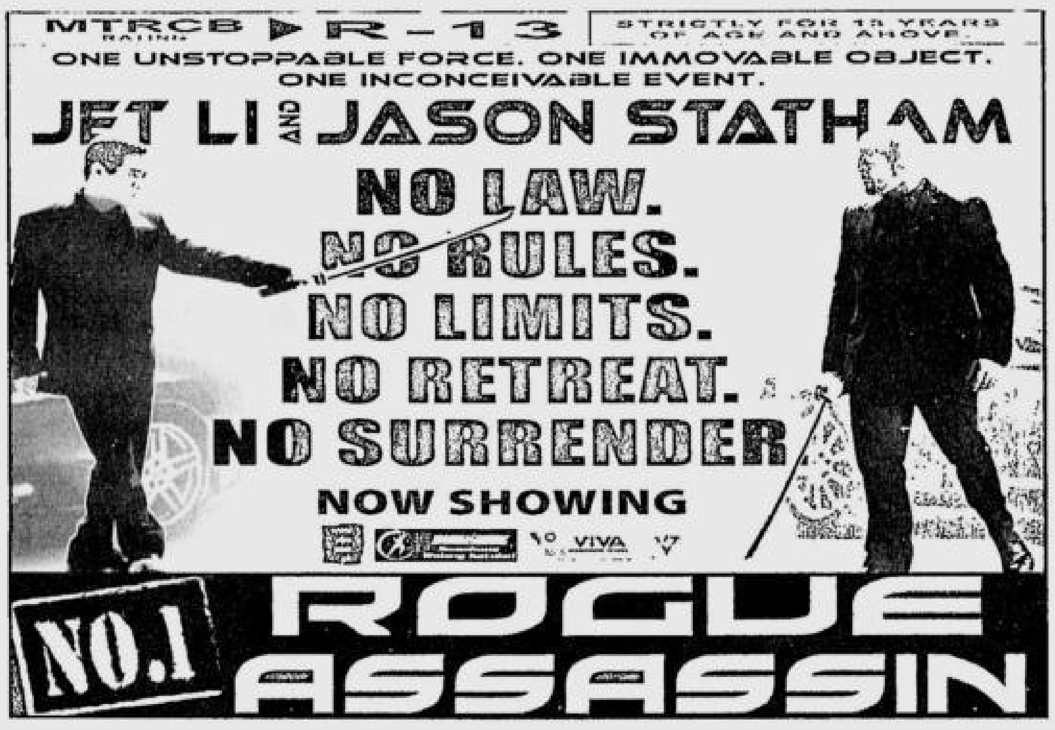
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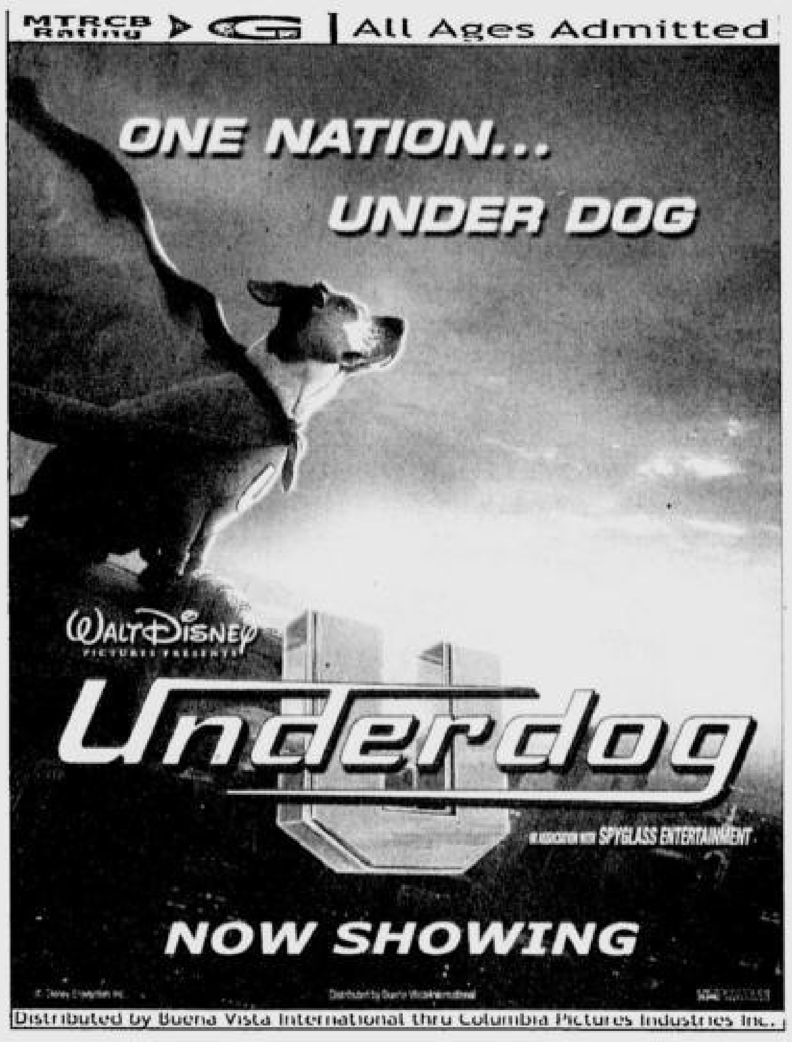
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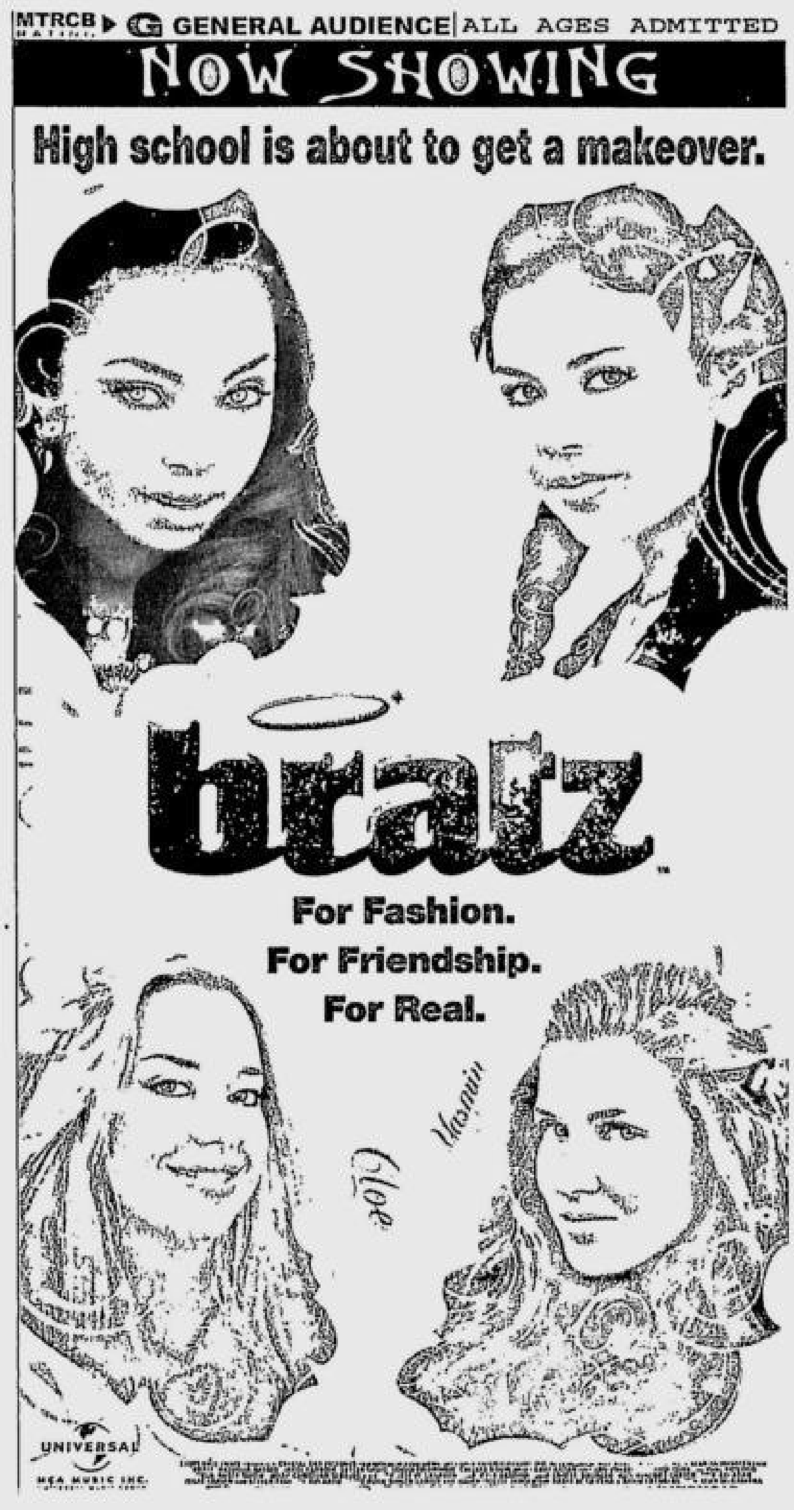
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7 1408
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9 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 ANG LALAKE SA PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 BRATZ
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

9 UNDERDOG
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 THE HOST
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee,
Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

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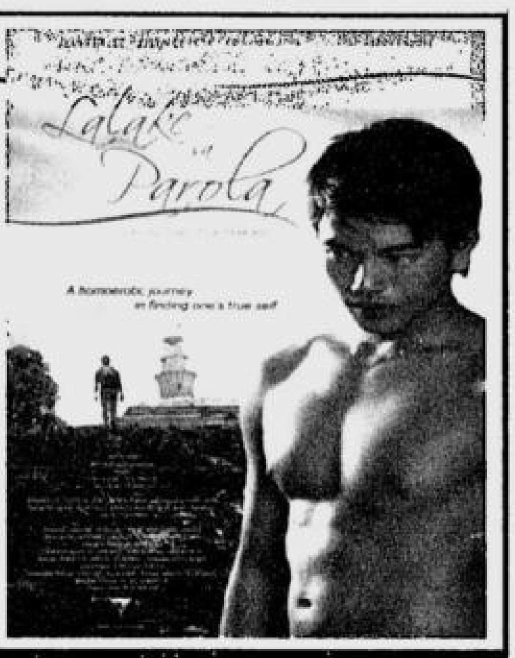
Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

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12:45 3:00 5:15 7:35 10:00

2 UNDERDOG 12:00 1:45 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 BRATZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 THE HOST
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

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1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

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1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 SHOOT 'EM UP
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 UNDERDOG
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 THE BRAVE ONE
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15

2 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10

4 THE HOST
12:50 3:20 6:50 8:20

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 DISTURBIA

LIPA Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3884 (043) 312-5870

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 NANCY DREW
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 PLANET TERROR

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

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3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

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6 1408

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3 DISTURBIA
4 UNDERDOG
5 WAITRESS
6 THE LAST LEGION

KC Concepcion grows up

By Remy M. Umerez

CONCEPCION. Wants to do a movie with social relevance.

AT AGE 18, KC CONCEPCION LEFT for France to study at the American University of Paris. She is now one of the institution's latest alumni—a full-grown woman at 22. In the television special, "KC from Paris to Pinas," which will be shown tomorrow at 10:30 p.m., ABS-CBN will chronicle the low-profile life she led in the City of Lights.

Loneliness

During the show's press launch, she spoke of the loneliness she felt during the first few months, the things she missed most about her country, and her immediate plans now that she's back in town. Excerpts:

How did it feel to be living away from the comforts of home and family?

Sobrang nakakanerbiyos, because I chose a place where I didn't have a single relative. I felt like a *probinsiyana* going to the big city for the first time. It was a decision my Mom supported, and I never regretted it!

My flat was not so hard to maintain—it was so small it could only accommodate three persons! Most important of all, I learned how to budget, because everything was expensive.

Did you bond easily with newfound friends?

The fact that my friends were open to different cultures made it easier. I was also fortunate to befriend persons who were not judgmental. One time, we went to London by train on a study trip for a school requirement. It was a thrilling and educational adventure for all of us.

Tell us about your recent bonding with your father, Gabby Concepcion.

He's doing fine—he's successful in his business in California. He was not able to attend my graduation, but he texted me regularly and sent me cards. I plan to visit him again when opportunity comes. It was interesting for me to learn that my dad once shot a movie in Europe, about a girl wanting a miracle. I've seen all his films with mom.

Do you intend to follow the footsteps of your Megastar mom?

I don't know if that's really my calling, but I'm open to the idea of acting in films. I like the culture of the theater, so there's no problem there—I like the discipline of the stage performers. Should I decide to do a movie, I want it to have social relevance.

Who is the real KC Concepcion?

I'm the type of person na *hindi umuurong sa intriga*. I let my work and advocacy speak for themselves!

RMN marks 55th dynamic broadcast year

By Nestor U. Torre

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, HENRY and Reuben Canoy put up their first radio station, dxCC, in Cagayan de Oro City. Later, many more stations were added, not just in Mindanao, but all over the country, and Radio Mindanao Network became one of the Philippines' most extensive and dynamic radio networks.

I congratulate RMN on its 55th anniversary this year—not just as an appreciative listener, but also as a "graduate" of its rigorous training program for responsible and versatile radio talents.

Media career

Thanks to the Canoy brothers' pioneering dxCC station, I launched my own media career in radio when I was still in my early teens. Since Henry and my dad were fellow Rotarians and friends, when dxCC needed a new English-language announcer, Henry and Reuben tapped me for the job. I was still a college freshman at the time, but I accepted the part-time job offer with alacrity.

Right off the bat, I realized that radio work was far from the glamorous babe-magnet medium some DJs make it appear to be. —It entailed a lot of hard work!

HENRY CANOY. Radio pioneer.

Since my first assignment was to deliver dxCC's daily 7 a.m. newscast, I had to wake up at 5 a.m. so I could arrive at the radio station in time to tape the 5:30 a.m. English newscast in Manila, type it all up, add local news items and report the whole newscast at 7 a.m. each weekday morning.

After a quick breakfast, I trotted over to the Ateneo de Cagayan to attend my morning lab subjects, yawning and bleary-eyed.

My precocious, on-the-job education in broadcast journalism benefited greatly from Henry and Reuben's hands-on, personal mentoring. Since they lived next door to the station, they would often walk in—sometimes in pyjamas—and critique my work.

I learned a lot from them, especially about broadcasters' responsibility to the listening public, and trying really hard to avoid making mistakes on the air.

Reactions

After some weeks, listeners' reactions to my newscasting stint were generally positive, so the Canoys tapped me to host a wide range of other shows: A "Student Canteen"-type daily noontime show, an early afternoon musical program telecast live from a local nightclub, a weekend quiz show emanating from the city's plaza, and some DJ work.

The sheer variety of my radio assignments was mind-boggling, but it taught me that versatility was a big plus in the radio biz. It also forced me to learn how to deal with all sorts of people, host live programs with a plaza audience in the hundreds and even thousands—and, all this even before I had turned "sweet" 16!

Graduate studies

After my graduate studies in the States, Henry again tapped me to work with him—this time at Channel 13, which RMN was running at the time.

Once more, Henry challenged me with a host of TV shows to direct, hosted by the great likes of Jose Mari Velez, Joey Lardizabal, Harry Gasser and Joe Cantada.

So, as RMN marks its 55th year, I have a lot to thank the network and the Canoy brothers for. They started me off in the right, bright direction in the radio-TV biz, challenging me with tough job assignments that made me understand early on what being a media professional was all about. That and other lessons have continued to guide me through the years—and I am truly grateful!

Onib Olmedo retrospective at CCP

FROM SEPT. 28 TO NOV. 8, THE CCP's main gallery showcases a retrospective exhibition titled "Dimensions of Depth," of acclaimed visual artist Onib Olmedo's compelling works. Call 832-3702.

'Chuck and Larry'

Adam Sandler, Kevin James and Jessica Biel star in the current comedy, "I Pronounce You Chuck and Larry," about two bosom buddies who pretend to be a gay married couple for "practical" reasons—that get them into a lot of comedic trouble!

'Araneta'

Maria Lina Araneta Santiago will launch her book, "Araneta, A Love Affair with God and Country," at 4 p.m. on Sept. 26 at White Cross (276 Santolan st., San Juan), beneficiary of the book's proceeds. The book is "the story of Filipinas as seen through the lives of the Aranetas, Zaragozas, Lopezes, Ledesmas, Roxases and other individuals of the period from the 1800s to the late 1980s.

'Lions for Lambs'

REDFORD. Stars in and directs film on war of terror.

Screen icons Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise topbill "Lions for Lambs," a poignant multi-layered story of people that digs behind the news to explore the human consequences of the complicated global war of terror. Redford also directs.

MONTAGE

SUPER V fights piracy.

'I vs 100'

"Pinoy Big Brother" housemates and entertainment editors Emmie Velarde, Crispina Belen, Ricky Gallardo, Mario Hernando and Gie Trillana join the 100 "Mob" players on Channel 2's "1 vs. 100" tonight. The game show is hosted by Edu Manzano.

Emmy Awards

Studio 23 airs the 59th Emmy Awards at 9:30 p.m. today. On Sept. 24, winners of the International Emmy Awards will announced in New York City. "Bandila's" coverage of the Subic Bay rape case is going against entries from the UK, Brazil and Romania.

Super V

Viva Video introduces Super V, a new ally in the fight against piracy. Super V stars in his very own roadshow, "Power of the Original: The Anti-Piracy Show," which will be launched today and tomorrow at SM City Makati, with top singing stars enjoining their fans to buy only original CDs and DVDs: Other dates: Sept. 30, SM Sta. Rosa; Oct. 7, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; Oct. 20, Robinsons Place Manila, and Oct. 28, Trinoma.

At Funnside

Mondays, ballroom dancing. Tuesdays, Noah's Ark. Wednesdays, Michelle de Guzman & the New Version. Thursday, the New Minstrels & Friends. Fridays, Flintstones and the Gang. Funnside is on Timog ave. near the corner of Tomas Morato.

Golden Jubilee

The Order of Carmelites in the Philippines is celebrating its golden jubilee today at the Titus Brandsma Center, No. 24 Acacia st., New Manila, QC. Kicking off the event are an art exhibit and a series of lectures and discussions on children and media. In the evening, there will be prayer, music, poetry and a hearty get-together of friends.

'Hair Diva' search

Ricky Reyes is launching "Hair Diva", a search for promising hairdressers. The chosen few will go through rounds of challenges as their journey is seen on QTV channel starting tomorrow at 10 a.m. All finalists are assured of jobs at Ricky Reyes salon branches.

Good service

From page F3

I've gone to this same bank many times and seen veterans going through the same experience.

I've also been to UCPB and Equitable Bank, where they used to provide chairs for clients to sit while waiting for transactions to be processed. Now, the chairs are gone, so people have to stand in line as they wait for their turn.

Some executives don't understand that fulfillment comes from rendering good service. Here's unsolicited advice: "Don't add to the misery of others—help lessen their pain!"

One time after my spiritual master gave a talk, he approached a young man who sacrificed a lot just to care for his aging mother. My teacher told him, "Thank you for taking care of your mother. This is very pleasing to God!"

Indeed, the best people are not those who wield great power, but those who render great service to their fellowmen. Blessed are those who offer humble and loving service to the Supreme Being and His children for they shall find real happiness!

SATURDAY Special

New TV season offers escape with fantasy, sci-fi shows

"HEROES." Sign of the times.

LOS ANGELES—THE SAME TELEVISION networks that bring chilling news of war, natural disaster and economic woes into American homes will try to make amends this TV season by offering viewers an escape route.

In a retreat from reality (if not reality shows), the 2007-2008 season is rife with dramas in the supernatural and science-fiction genres, populated by heroes who draw on extraordinary gifts to battle the bad guys.

"Heroes" is a key word here; the success of NBC's sci-fi series has fired up the hopes and imagination of the TV industry. Since viewers liked it so much, perhaps they'll also go for CBS' "Moonlight," featuring a vampire who fights crime and his baser instincts.

Time traveler

Or ABC's "Pushing Daisies," about a man who can revive the dead to solve crimes. Or NBC's "Journeyman," in which a reporter becomes a time traveler who's able to change events. Or "Bionic Woman," an update of the 1970s show about an accident victim with a rebuilt chassis.

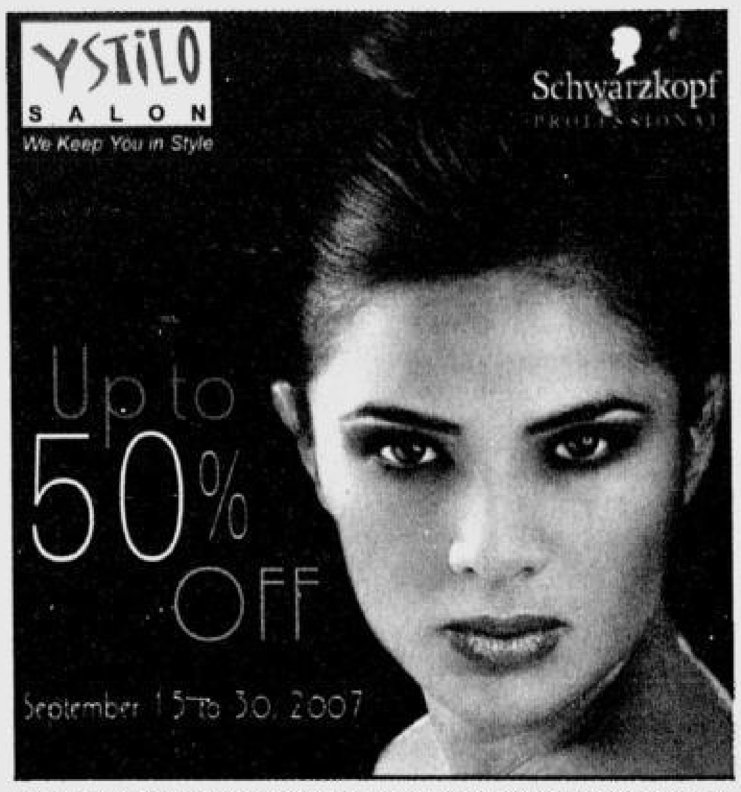
Then, there's Fox's "The Sarah Connor Chronicles," drawn from the "Terminator" movie franchise, and "New Amsterdam," with a New York detective who was made immortal by an Indian spell cast in 1642.

If such programs reflect the times in any substantive way, it would be the general yearning for someone—whether a statesman or a Superman—to rescue us.

As with any industry, television is attempting to give its customers what they want, said Tim Brooks, coauthor of "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable Shows."

"We don't see more of the 'chalk-line TV'" this season, said Brooks, referring to the long-dominant "CSI" school of gritty crime drama. "We want something escapist, upbeat—shows that take you out of the world of Osama bin Laden and politicians throwing mud at each other!"

Last year, of 52 dramas on five networks, 25 focused on the battle against crime or terrorism by police, the CIA, FBI or the military. *AP*



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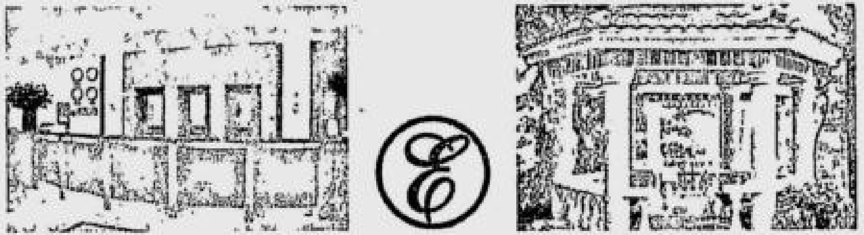

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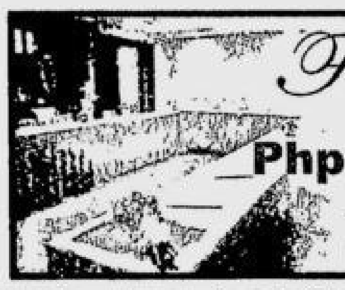

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Unique stellar appeal propels decades-long careers

POE. Presented himself as a man of peace who would go to "war" only if pushed against the wall.

By Nestor U. Torre

NEW TALENTS ARE READY TO do practically anything to attain stardom—and to remain popular for the rest of their stellar careers.

To do that, however, they have to catch the fancy of show biz fans by way of their unique persona or appeal.

It's instructive to note that our most popular stars appeal to fans in special ways pretty much exclusive to themselves. "Clones" of superstars who ape their performing styles usually fall into disfavor after only a season or two.

Word to the wise

A word to the wise newcomer, therefore: Be true to yourself, and you'll be more successful than if you set out to be the next Aga Muhlach, Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos or Dolphy.

Some sterling examples, to illustrate: Fernando Poe Jr. was acclaimed as the King of Filipino films because he made movies that consistently cast him as the defender of the poor, the oppressed and the disenfranchised.

Even more beguilingly, he presented himself as a man of peace who would go to "war" only if pushed against the wall—and what provoked him most of all was the oppression of the suffering masses. Small wonder then that millions rallied to his cause, at first in the movies and eventually in national politics.

For his part, Joseph Estrada first became popular due to his "black sheep" screen persona that was much more interesting than the bland, boy-next-door image of most other leading men in the '60s.

Later, he modified his initial image to include his own even more macho take on the "defender" mode. This culminated in his signature character in "Geron Busabos, Ang Batang Quiapo," who was both gruff and brave—and scrappy and wily, to boot!

Political gambits

"Erap" was able to parlay his unique stellar appeal and huge following into a series of successful political gambits, culminating in the presidency of the land.

Interestingly, FPJ and Erap were bosom buddies in real life, and occasionally co-starred in action blockbusters that "pitted" them against each other as "adversaries."

Their co-starrers took full advantage of their contrasting screen personae, with FPJ playing the good guy and Erap colorfully portraying the scoundrel. They entertainingly got on each other's bad side throughout their movies—until they joined forces to fight the *real* bad guys at the very end!

Another major star, Nora Aunor, achieved superstardom by being the complete antithesis to the *tisoy* stars who dominated Philippine TV and films in the '70s:

They were tall and fair-skinned; she was petite and *kayumanggi*-complexioned. So, why did she become phenomenally popular? At first, because of her richly expressive singing voice. Later, she proved that she was also a sensitive thespian, playing "ordinary" characters that millions of other *Pinoys* could strongly empathize with. Of all of the unique stars on our list, Nora is the most truly original.

Different reasons

What about Sharon Cuneta? She's been popular for three decades—for vastly different reasons. Born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth, she nevertheless connected with the mass audience by launching her

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UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	ROUGE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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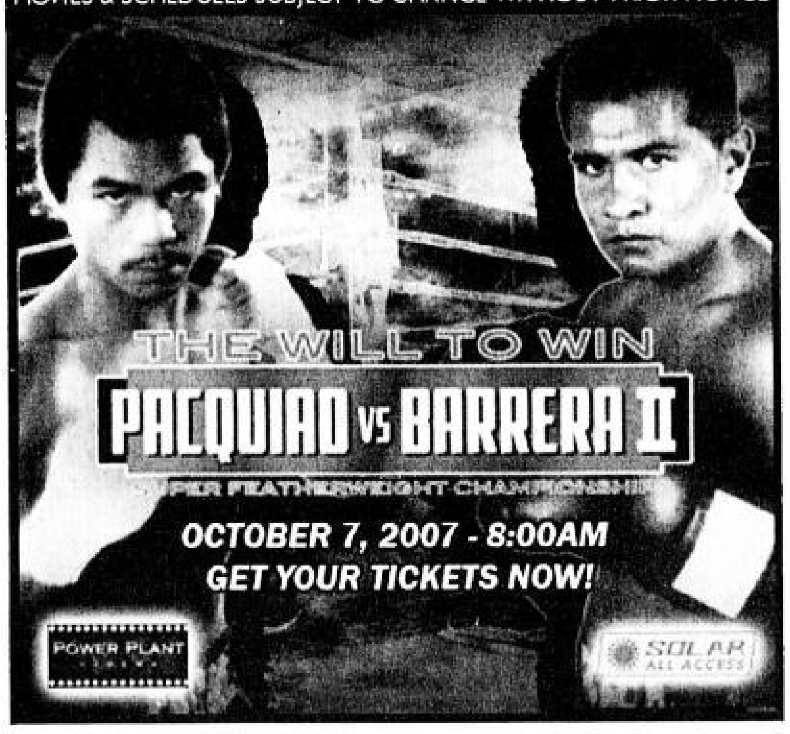

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3	BRATZ 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40 G	
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CINEMA 5	CHUCK & LARRY 10:45 , 1:15 , 3:45 6:15 , 8:50	R-13

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MUSIC MUSEUM	September 22 , 2007	Jett Pangan Michael De Mesa Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
	September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
	October 08 & 09,2007	" Alamat " Stageplay	[illegible]
	October 12 & 13, 2007	Apo Hiking Society	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Sept. 21 , 28 ,2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Sep. 26 , 27 Oct. 3 , 10, 17, 24 , 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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	4 JOSHUA	5 UNDERDOG	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 THE BRAVE ONE
GREENBELT 1	1 SHOOT THEM UP	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BRATZ GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 SHOOT THEM UP		
	3 BRATZ	4 THE BRAVE ONE	5 ROGUE ASSASIN	
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Ayala

glorietta	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 22, 2007; 7 PM at the Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Sounds of Greenbelt featuring: Martin Nievera September 21, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	San Beda "Le Fou Midi" (SS) and Modelo Pilipinas September 21, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Timezone "U Got Game" X3M XPO Competition September 22, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
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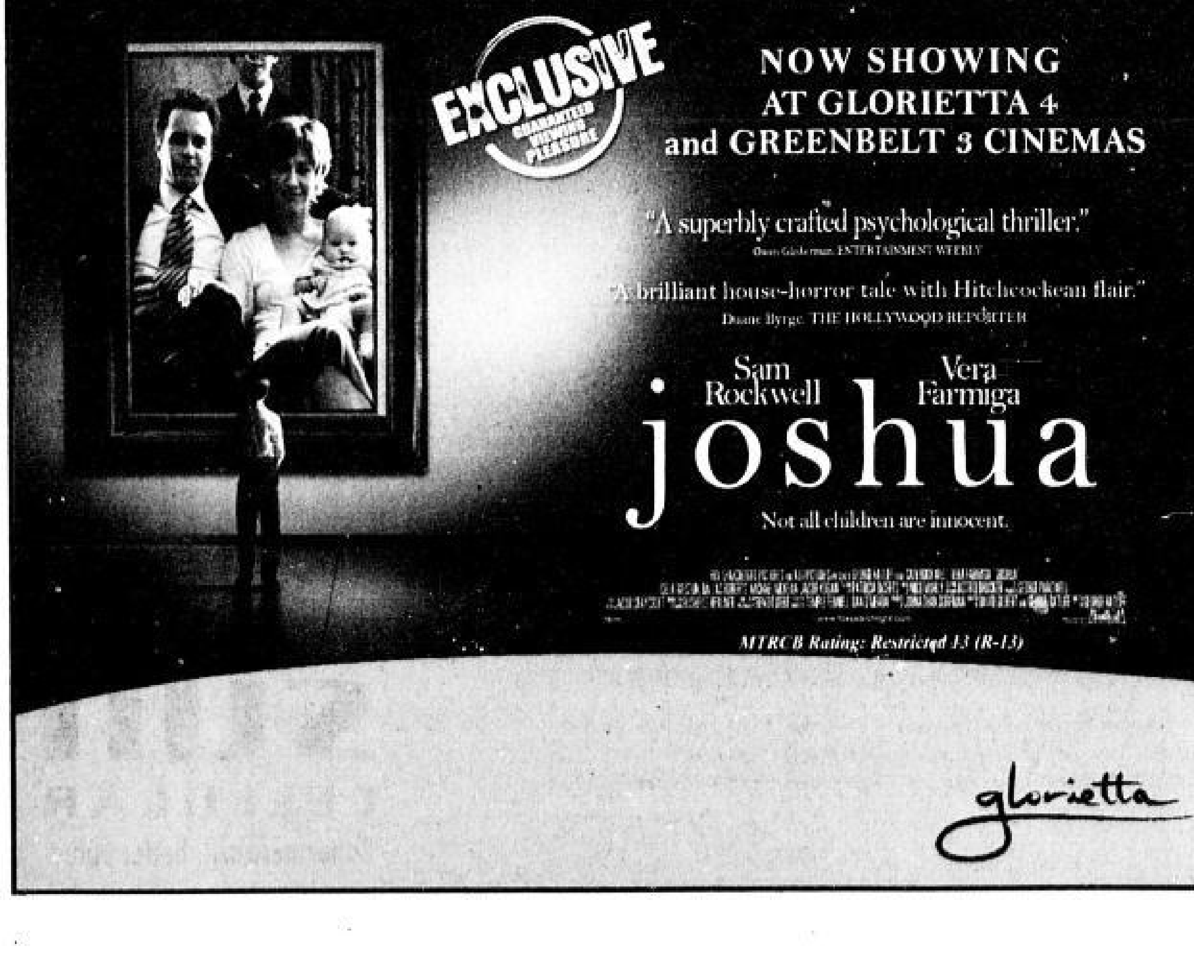
TriNoma	Elliot Yamin of Americal Idol Live! September 21, 2007 at the Activity Center



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OWEN. Plays mysterious man who comes to the rescue of a pregnant woman in "Shoot 'Em Up."

Frenzied actioner lacks punch

By Noelani Torre

THE HERO OF THE ACTION-THRILLER, "Shoot 'Em Up," munches on carrots in the course of the movie and, in one scene, lets loose with a "What's up, doc?" He's no Bugs Bunny, though—he has a five o'clock shadow, for one thing—and no one in his right mind would ever mistake a glowering Clive Owen for a bunny!

Cartoons will often come to mind while you're watching the movie, though, and it's not just because of the carrot-munching, or the fact that the principal baddie is a slightly twisted, non-stuttering sadistic version of Elmer Fudd (Paul Giamatti).

It's also because of the film's frenetic, over-the-top tone, which is reminiscent of a cartoon's manic rhythm. This frenzied quality pushes the boundaries of belief and, though interesting at first, it soon palls.

Car chases

Despite scene after scene of car chases and blazing gun battles on land and air, the film lacks punch. It does live up to its title—the body count goes way beyond that of the average action movie—but the overabundance of corpses and violence does not translate to an equal amount of thrills.

Films like "Shoot 'Em Up" have to be taken at their level, but even when you do, this hyperactive movie still doesn't quite work. Written and directed by Michael Davis, it stars Owen as Mr. Smith, a mysterious man who gets embroiled in violent activities when he decides to come to the rescue of a pregnant woman being chased by many bad guys.

Smith manages to save the lady and deliver her baby (cutting off the umbilical cord with a precisely-aimed bullet). She's fatally shot while they're on the run, so he's saddled with a squalling infant.

Humor

Enter Donna Quintano, a lactating prostitute in the lovely form of Monica Bellucci, whose initials are an illustration of the kind of humor you'll encounter throughout the movie. Smith enlists her help and soon, he and his instant family are on the run again from the bad guys, led by Mr. Hertz (Giamatti), whose motives for offing moms and their babies remain unclear even after they've explained it. (It has something to do with bone marrow, gun control and the presidential elections.)

The plot isn't something the filmmakers wanted to bother thinking about, which is fine, but you'll end up suspending your disbelief for—well, not much. The action, while carefully choreographed, looks stagey and lacks oomph. The scenes feel somewhat clunky and the entire movie has a certain aren't-we-clever vibe that leaches it of freshness and vitality.

Photography . . .

From page G4

transparency or negative, digital images don't fade, so succeeding copies are identical.

In digital photography, if you have a desktop computer and printer, you no longer need a darkroom to develop your pictures. It's fast and trouble-free. Instant feedback is another benefit. The LCD display screen shows the image instantly. If you don't like what you see, you can simply delete it—and shoot again!

Ansel Adams, an accomplished pianist, once wrote, "The negative is the score, the print is the performance." With digital, you have different "orchestras" to choose from, and a chance to rewrite the musical score.

Recently, we discussed these points with the multimedia students of Centro Escolar University.

* * *

Join the Batanes Photo Safari 2008, call 899-1767. E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.

Unique . . .

From page G2

career early as an adolescent, and by singing her way into fans' hearts.

Sharon clicked with A-B-C-D-E viewers because she offered something for everybody—class for the classy, sense for the sensible, melodrama for the melodramatic—and an earnest likability that made her accessible to one and all.

Like FPJ and Erap, people kept urging Sharon to parlay her popularity into political gold—but she didn't become a politician, she married one (Sen. Kiko Pangilinan)!

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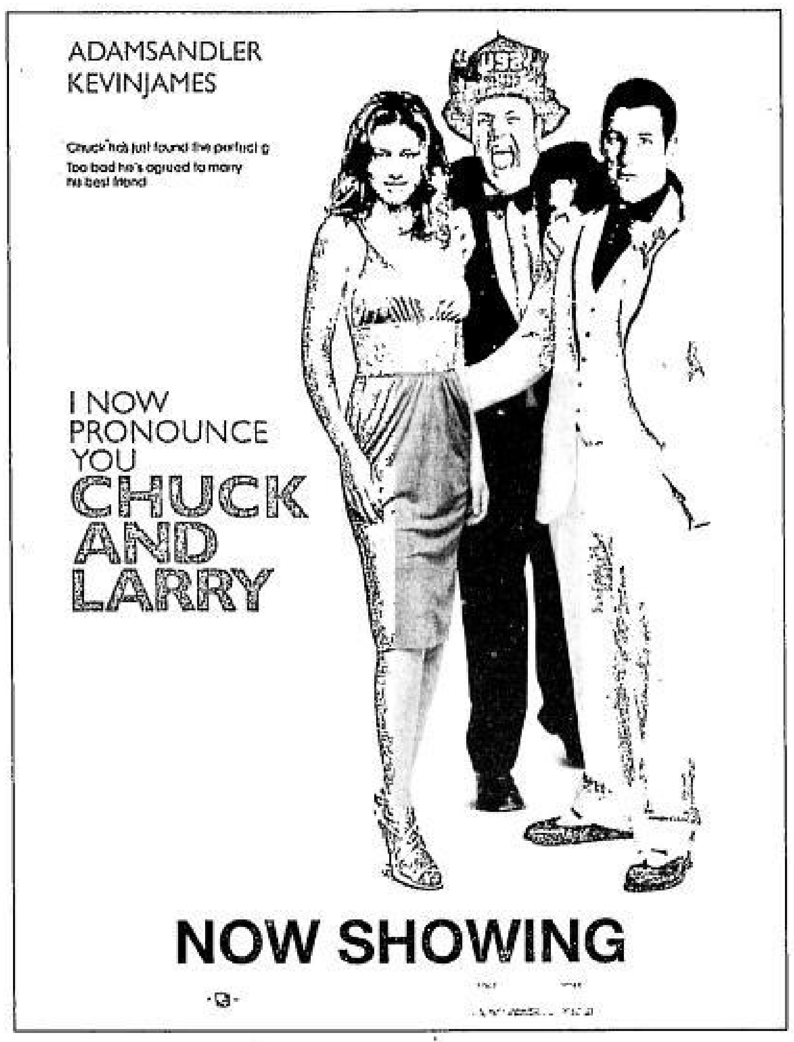
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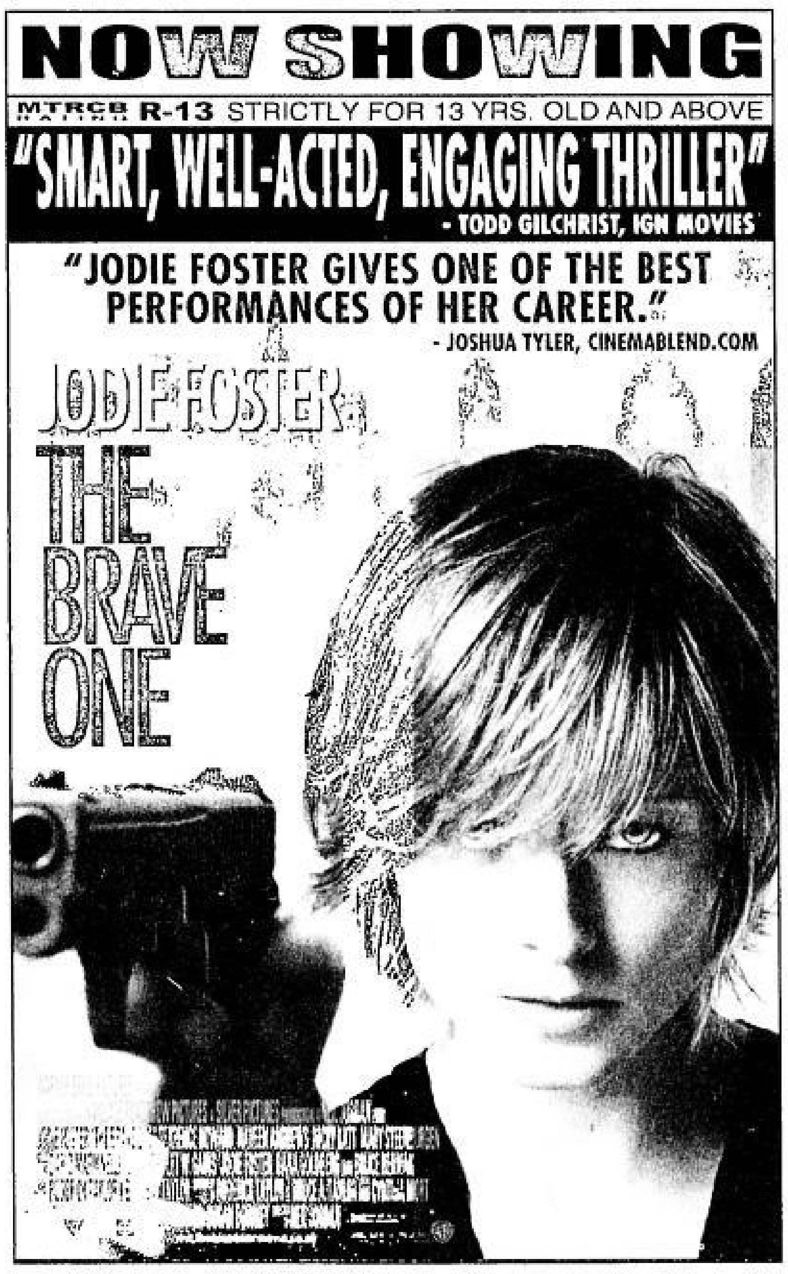
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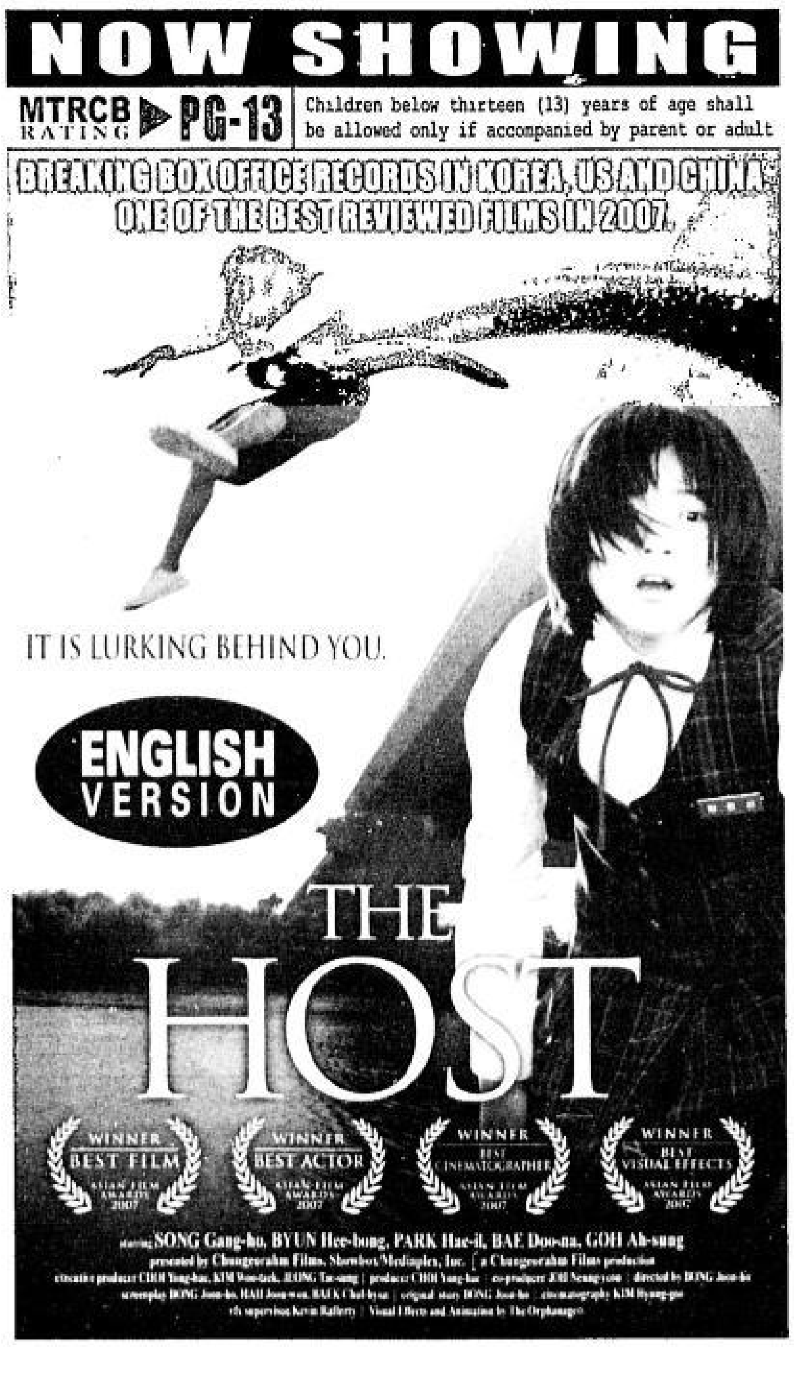
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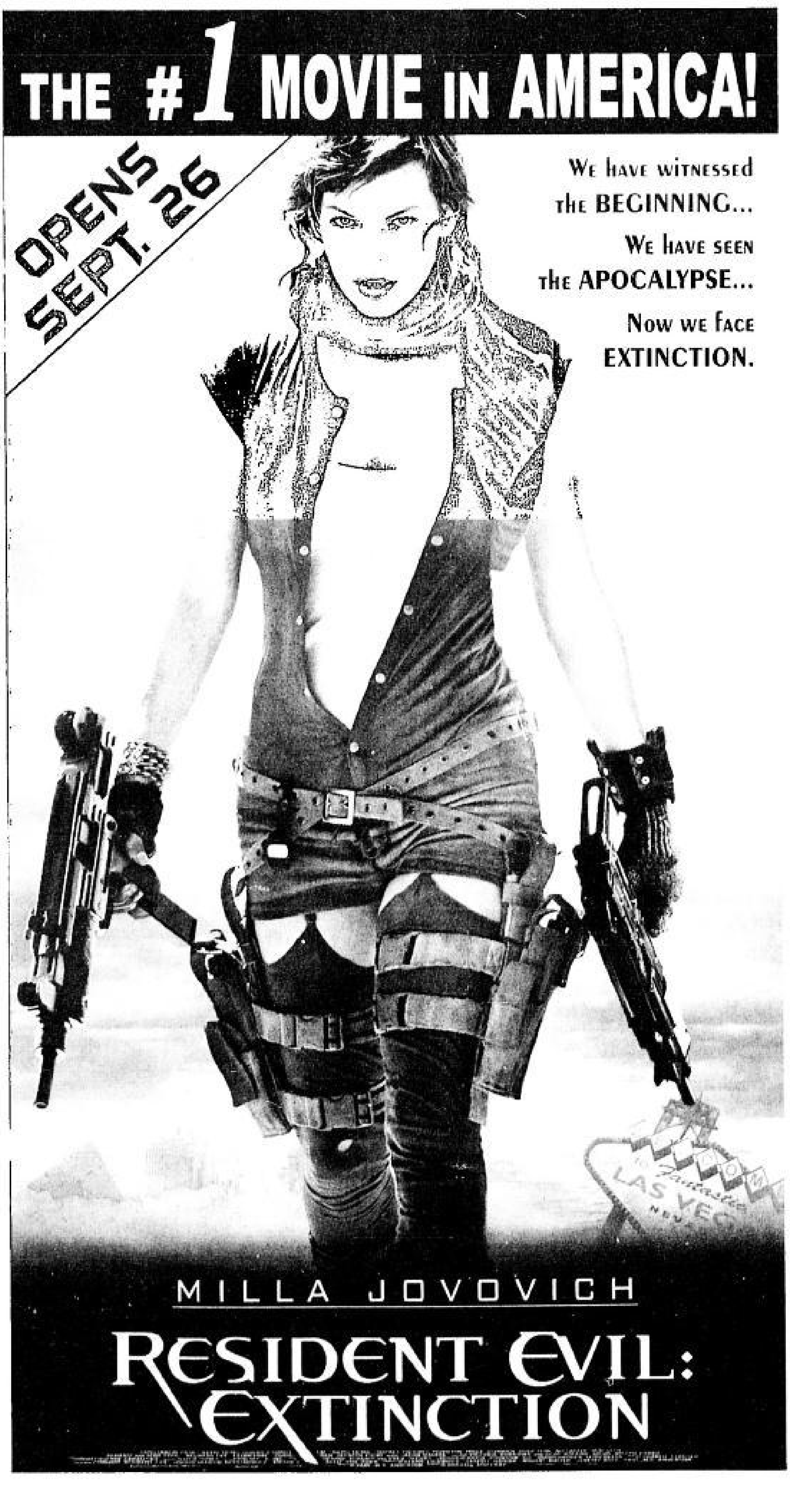
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Fusion of myth and romance boosts steamy gay drama

By Rito P. Asilo

"Ang Lalake sa Parola"
D: Joselito Altarejos
S: Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Allan Paule

LOVE AND THE ELEMENTS COME together in Joselito Altarejos' steamy romantic drama, "Ang Lalake sa Parola" (recently graded B by the Cinema Evaluation Board): On a property-hunting trip to the rustic, beachside town of Lobo, Batangas, gay advertising copywriter, Jerome Rosales (Justin de Leon), finds the man of his dreams when he meets simple but handsome 20-year-old lighthouse caretaker, Mateo (Harry Laurel). Sparks fly, but the rudder of same-sex romance is never easy to maneuver.

As he excitedly anticipates the return of his Dubai-based estranged father (Richard Quan), who abandoned him when he was only 5 years old, Mateo also begins to wonder about his easy chemistry with Jerome. —Not even his zealous and doting girlfriend, Suzette (Jennifer Lee), could take away his attention from the polished appeal of the affable stranger from Manila!

Soon after Mateo starts an "affair" with Jerome—he even visits the latter in the big city—one confounding dilemma leads to another. He then realizes that his quest for identity is also hinged on facing his true sexuality. But, is society just as accepting?

LAUREL AND DE LEON. Share a love that knows no gender.

Altarejos juxtaposes Jerome and Mateo's story with the mythical tale of a man (Allan Paule) abducted by a fairy. The narrative trick is intriguing enough, but it is used more often than necessary. The movie also contains sexually graphic scenes that may turn off some viewers, but the director manages to convince us that there's more to his film than its steamy, provocative parts.

Arvin Viola's photography appears grainy, but it nonetheless captures the bucolic atmosphere of a small town at the far end of civilization. The postcard-perfect locale doesn't just evoke the place and its residents' natural beauty and simplicity, it also acts as the perfect backdrop for Jerome and Mateo's innocent but forbidden love.

The use of local color (the alcoholic *talampunay* beverage, the beautiful beaches) and the cast's mostly above-par performances (De Leon, Quan) add texture and scenic context to the narrative proceedings. Indeed, love knows no gender.

But, the film's biggest assets are its leads: Justin de Leon delivers a committed albeit inconsistent turn. However, it's fresh-faced Harry Laurel who runs away with the film. Despite the occasionally off-putting, sexually sizzling scenes, Laurel consistently sustains his character's endearing innocence and good nature.

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Photography goes digital

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FOR 175 YEARS, PHOTOGRAPHY HAS been synonymous to a light-sensitive emulsion developed in chemicals. Now, the medium is catching up with digital technology.

The digital changeover is an eventuality. Most probably, film will not disappear completely, but it will become limited and specialized.

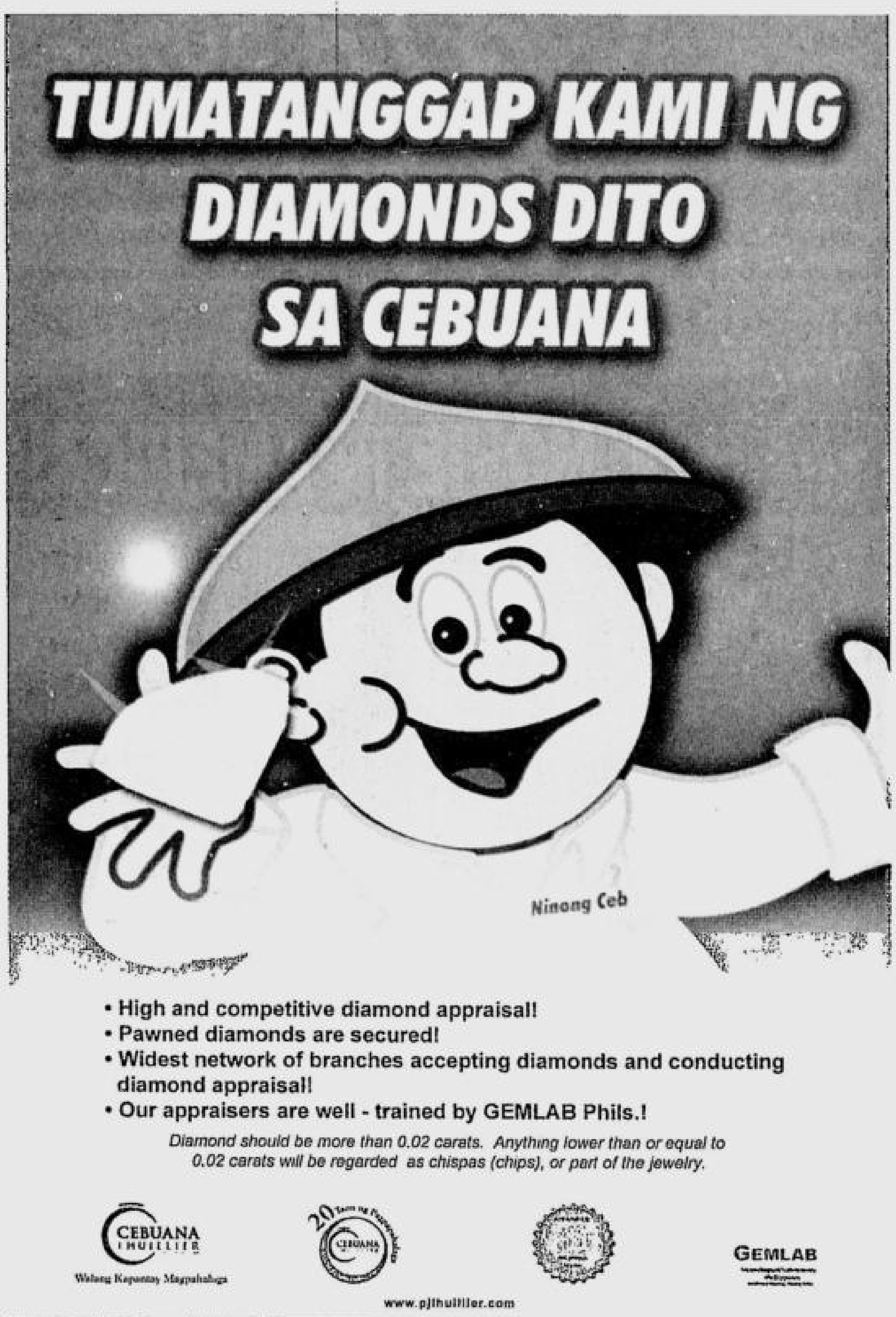
Digital cameras have a "promiscuous" relationship with desktop computers and mobile phones. This will no doubt continue to evolve. More importantly, advantages outweigh their limitations, so more and more photography bugs are riding the digital wave.

Easy to process

Digital recording has many advantages: Captured images are easy to process. From image capture to print, correction and manipulation are easily performed. Moreover, there's no loss of image quality.

In contrast to pictures taken from film-based photography, in which each generation is degraded from the original

PHOTOGRAPHY/ G3



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Thriller mars Lohan's transition to young-adult roles

By Nestor U. Torre

WTH SO MUCH CONTROVERSY roiling around her private life, the last thing Lindsay Lohan needs is an unsuccessful movie. Her current starrer, "I Know Who Killed Me," was supposed to establish the former child star as a young-adult lead of uncommon fire and grit, but it falls short of achieving that lofty goal.

Don't blame Lohan, who gives her "crossover" movie her level dramatic best. In fact, she even goes out on a thespic limb, engaging in some striptease numbers that could shock her former fans, who remember her as a pert, button-nosed little charmer in her early movies.

Basic premise

The film is a relative botch because of its basic premise, which involves the serial murders of beautiful and accomplished female students by a faceless psycho. The plot's progression is too turgidly complicated to involve viewers, who are sometimes unable to follow its improbable twists and facile turns.

After the body of the first victim is found, even the cops are shocked, because it turns out to be without an arm and a leg.

Forensic investigation further reveals that the poor young woman had been brutally tortured before she lost her limbs. What demented sadist could have perpetrated such a cruel, gruesome crime?

Alas, Lohan's character, Aubrey, soon finds out. She becomes the serial killer's next victim, and her parents fear the worst. So, they're relieved when she eventually shows up alive—even if she too has suffered the loss of an arm and a leg!

LOHAN. Goes out on a thespic limb to play two roles in latest movie.

But, more surprises are in store for Lohan's parents when she recovers—and announces that she isn't their daughter, but a completely different person named Dakota. Yes, she looks exactly like their daughter, but she's her exact opposite when it comes to character and background.

Gifted writer

Aubrey lives in the lap of luxury and is a gifted writer and artist, while Dakota grew up in a shack, had a crack addict for a mother, and made ends meet as a stripper in a cheap dive.

Of course, Aubrey's parents refuse to believe their daughter's lurid story. But, "Dakota" sticks to her own version of events—until it begins to make more sense.

Other shocking developments perplex viewers once more, however. Like, "Dakota's" empathy for the missing victim proves to be so strong that she too ends up losing a finger! No, it isn't chopped off, it just appears to wither on her hand!

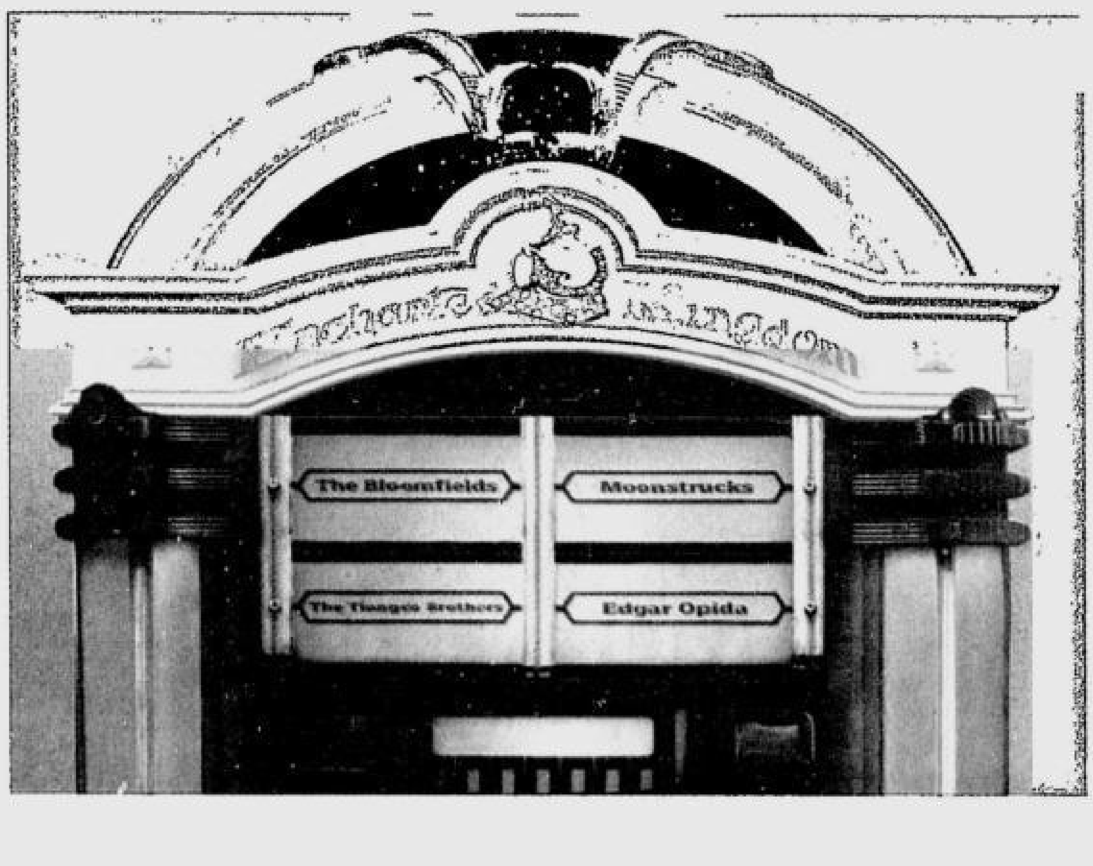
What are we to make of this weird development? That, *if* Dakota is indeed different from the missing Aubrey, they are so completely linked psychologically that whatever is happening to Aubrey also impacts on Dakota's body?

Extreme images

Presuming that this is psychologically possible, the weird bond still doesn't sit well with viewers, because it is so hysterically dramatized. One visual shocker follows another, until the viewer cringes from all those extreme images.

So, even after the series of mysteries is finally solved and the serial killer is given his just desserts, this viewer couldn't find empathetic closure, because some questions remained unanswered.

For one thing, why was "Dakota" able to dig up the missing victim's coffin all by her lonesome, with only one arm and one leg left? Did her psychological obsession transform her into a superwoman, or was the film's maker fudging his storytelling yet again? We think we know who "killed" this movie.



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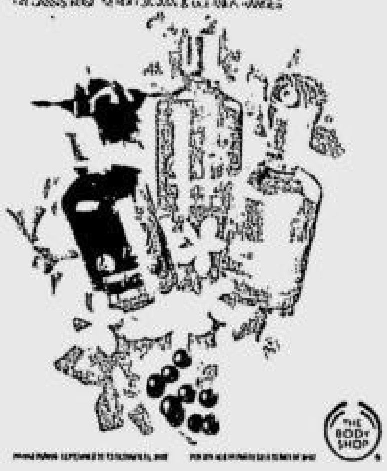

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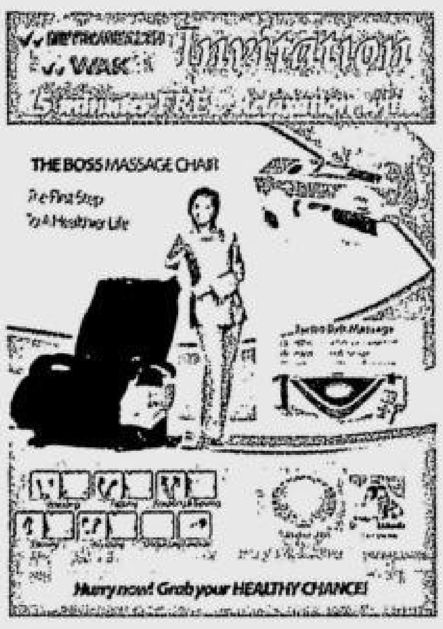
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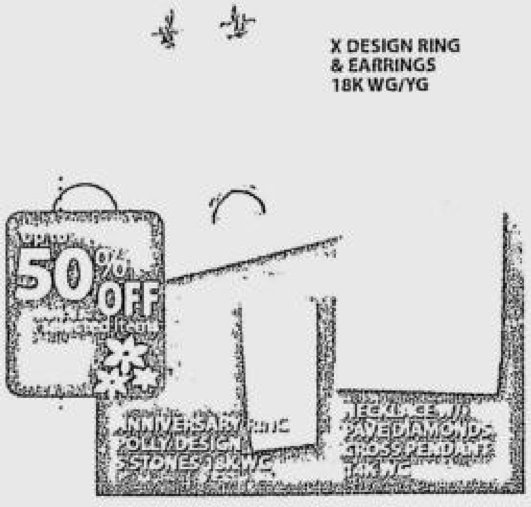
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DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4006, SERI OF 200

SM SUPERMALLS

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4220, SERIES OF 2007

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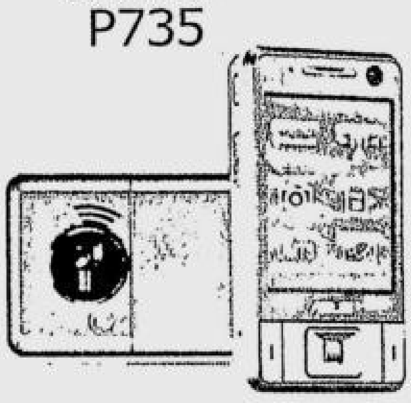

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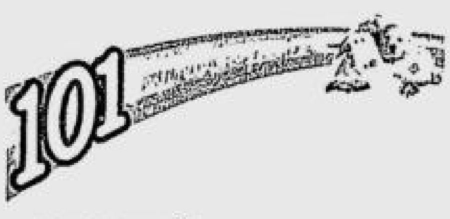

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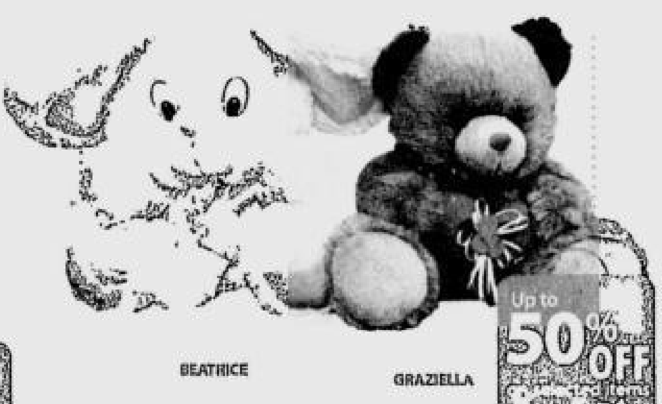

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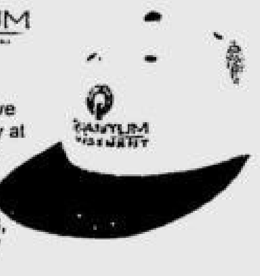

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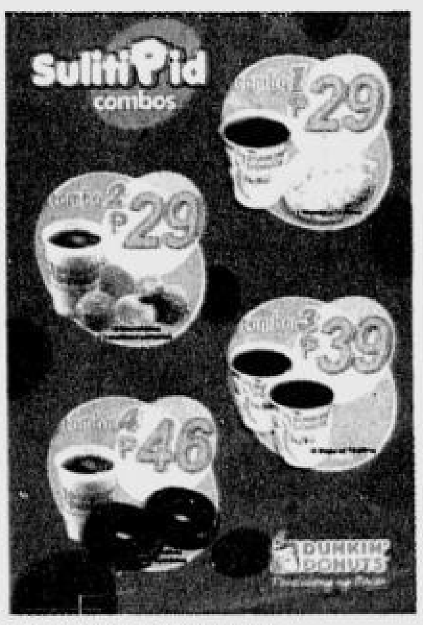
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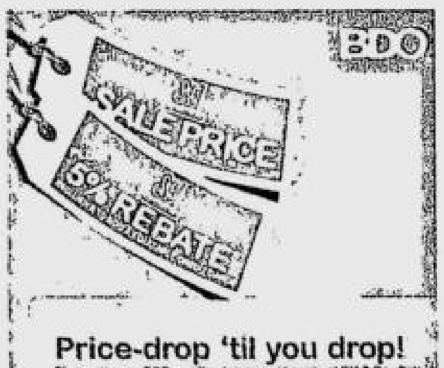
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